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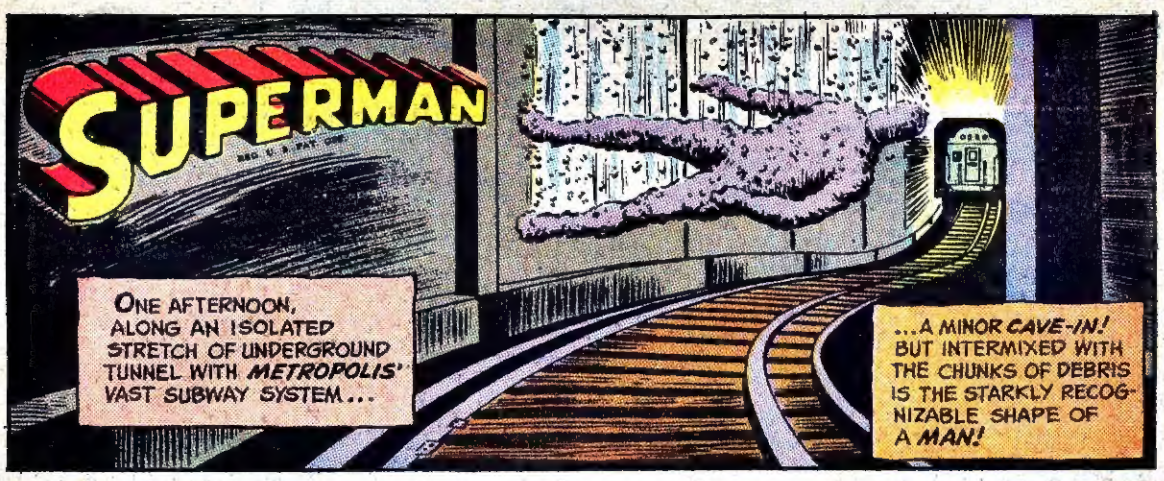

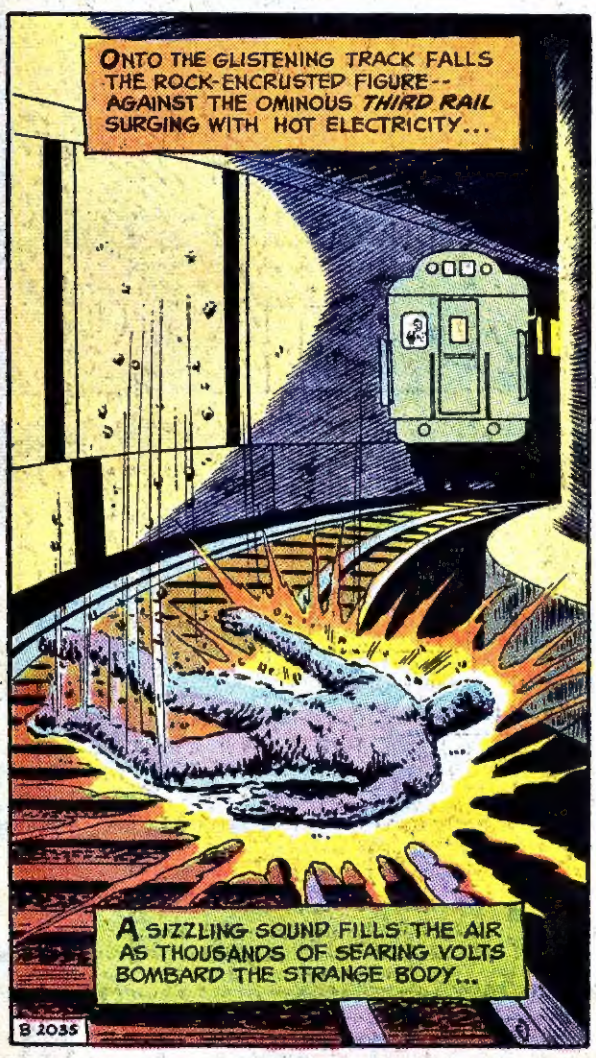

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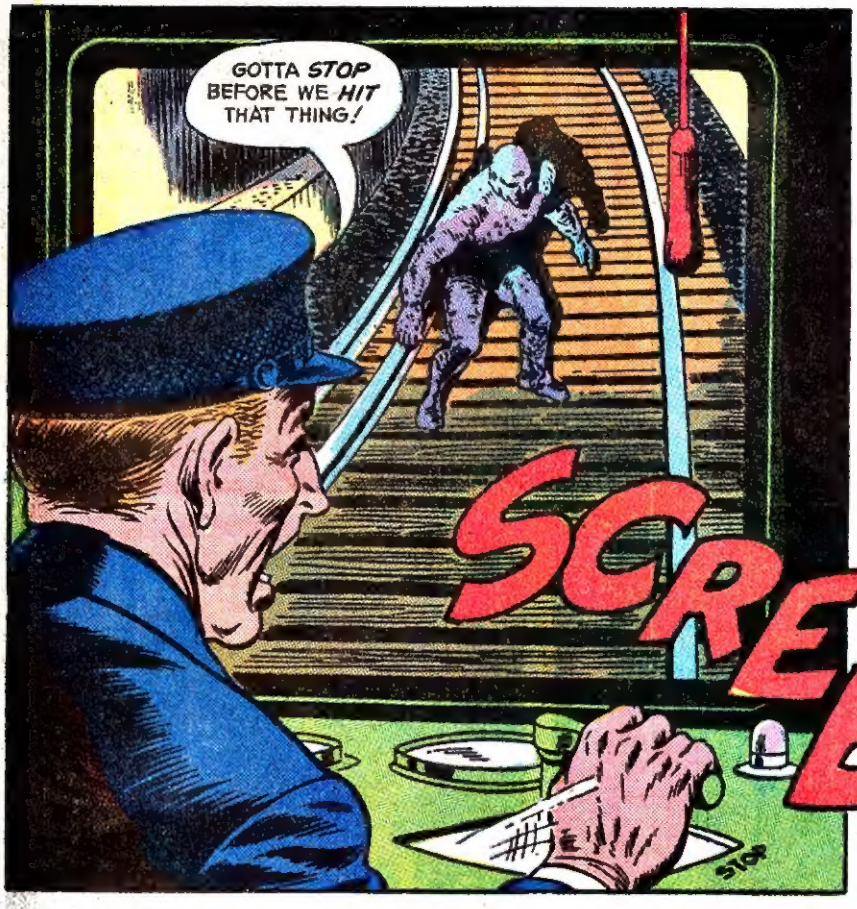
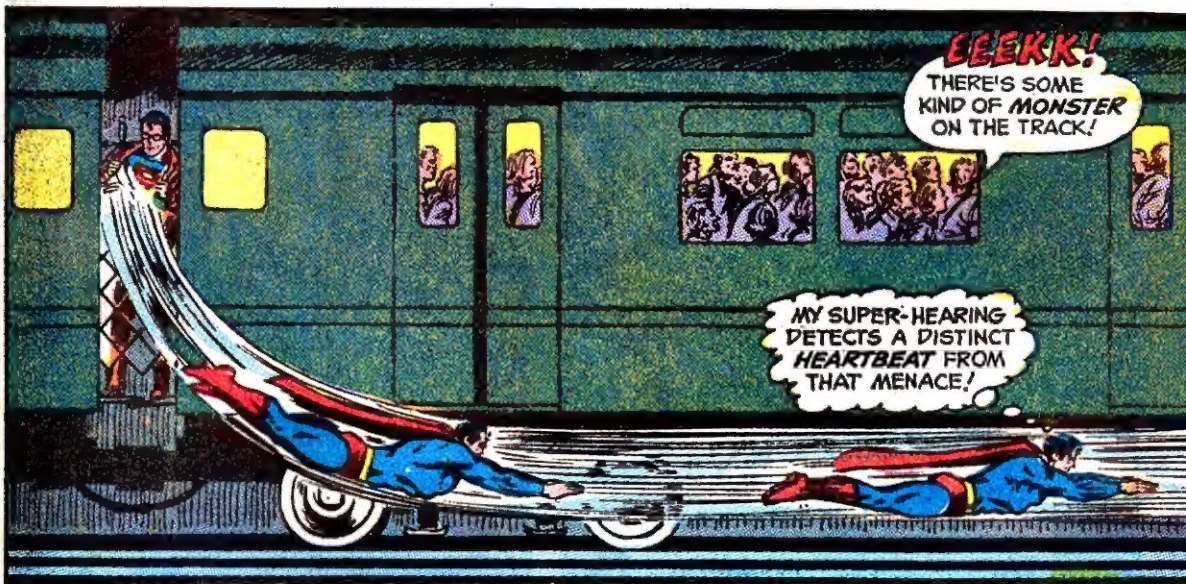
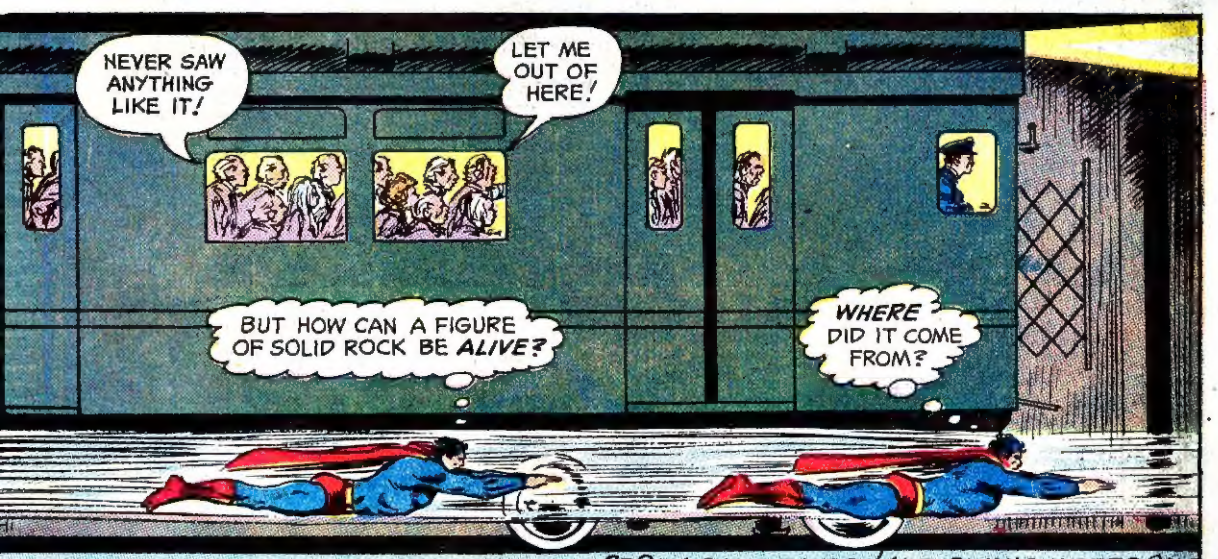




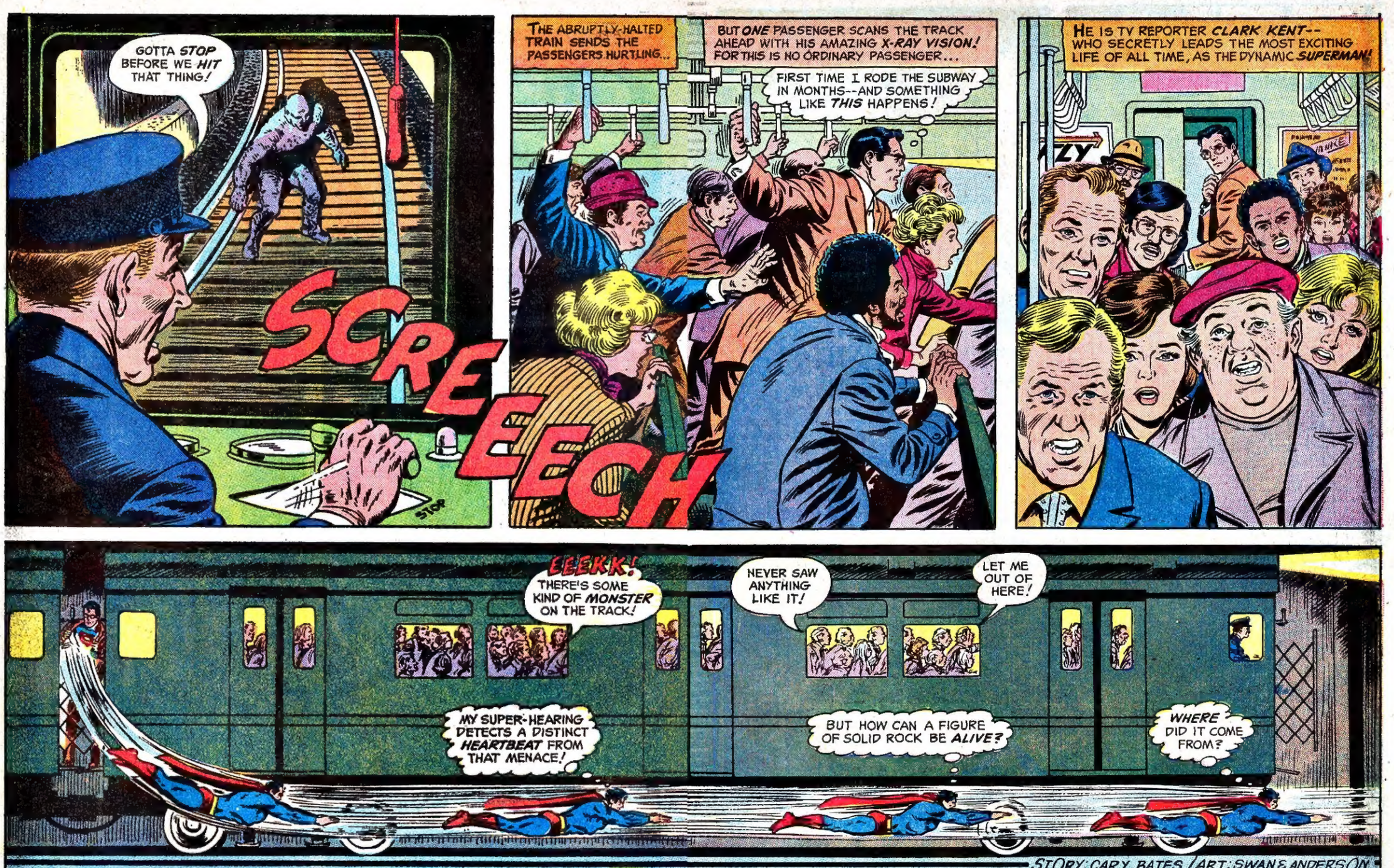
PUZZLING QUESTIONS, SUPERMAN... AND THE ANSWERS YOU'RE AFTER WILL SPELL OUT THE ASTONISHING SAGA OF AN UNKNOWN RACE THAT FLOURISHED MANY EONS AGO, AS YOU DISCOVER THE TERRIFYING...

"SECRET of



STORY: CARY BATES / ART: SWAN & ANDERSON

the FIRST METROPOLIS!"



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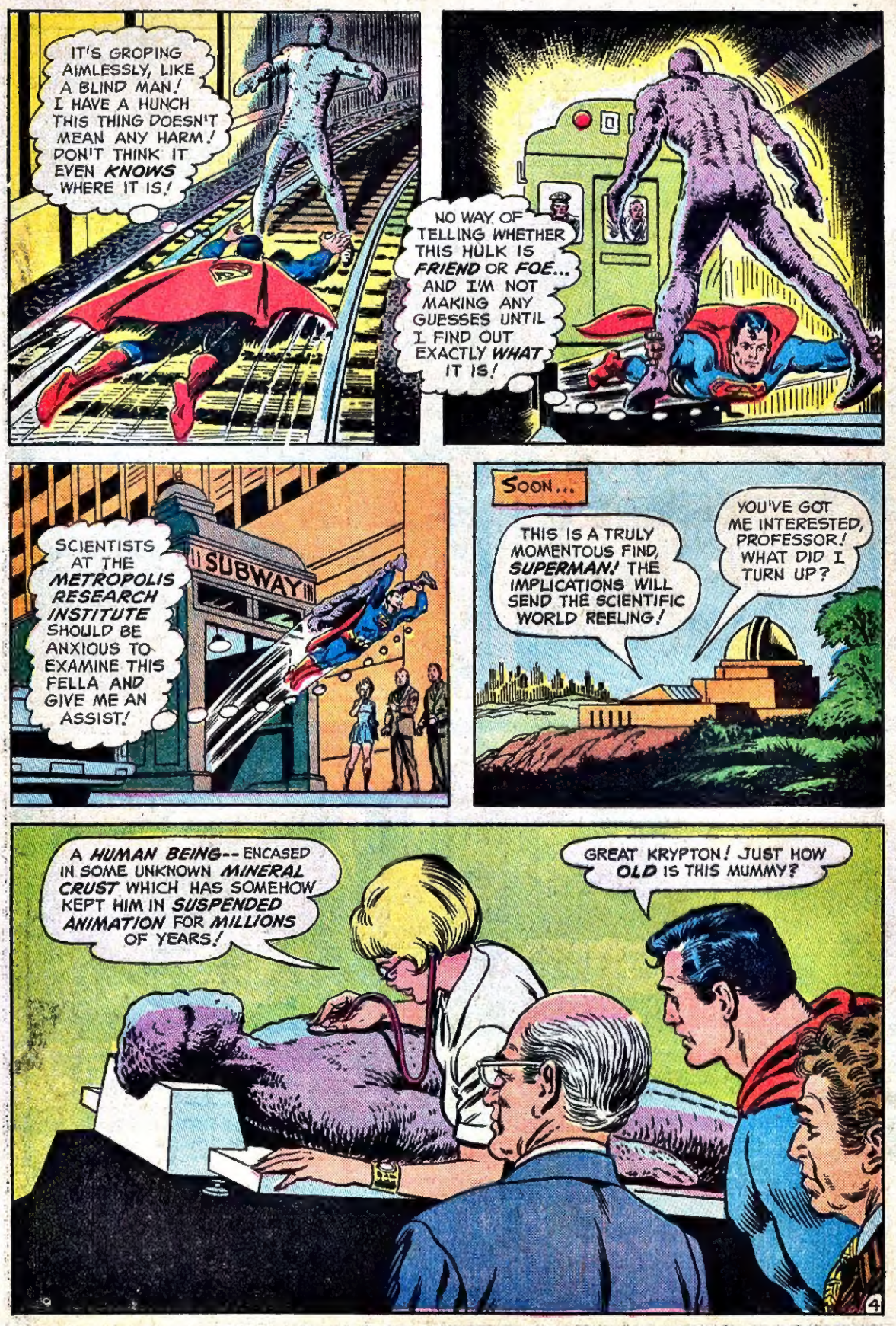
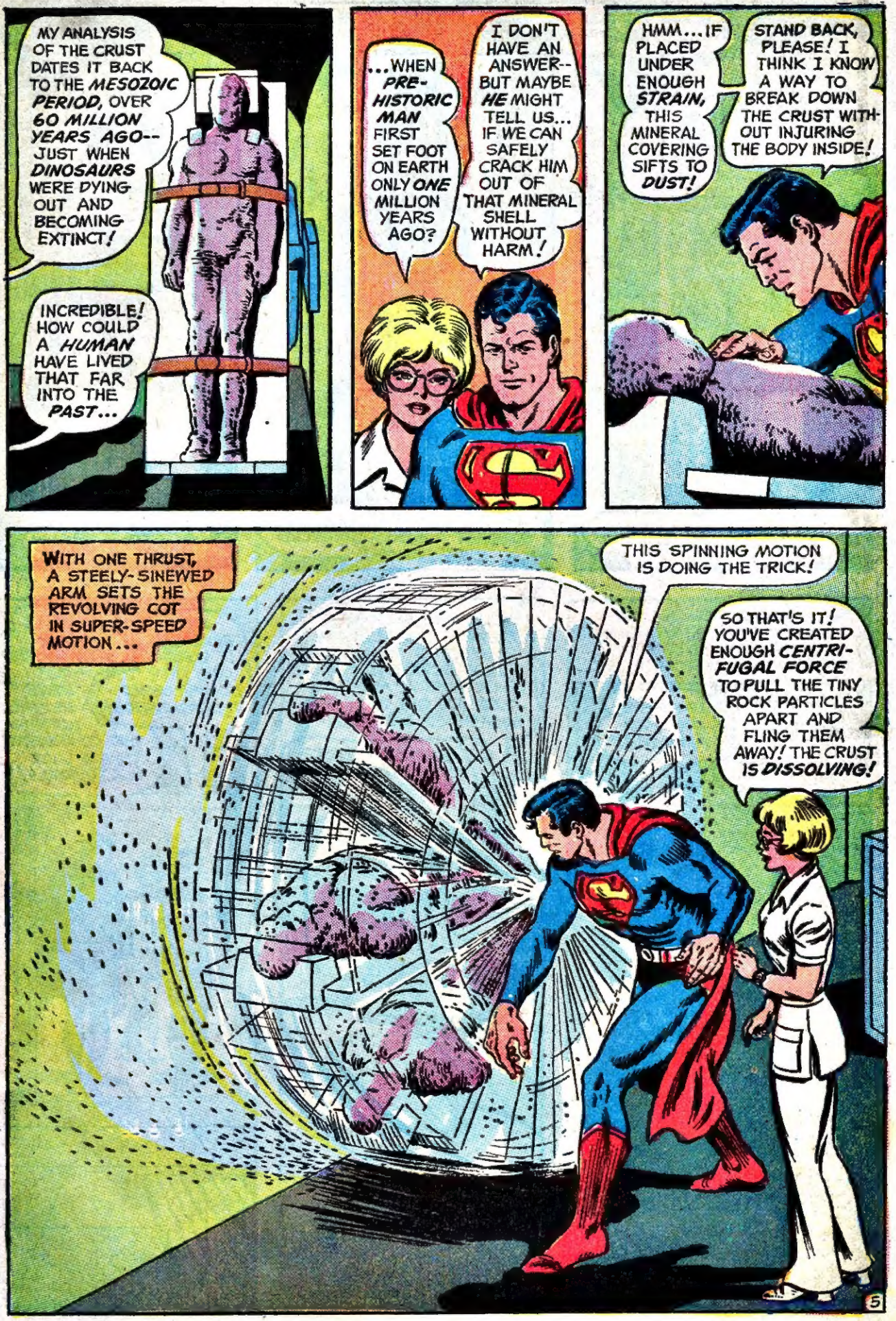
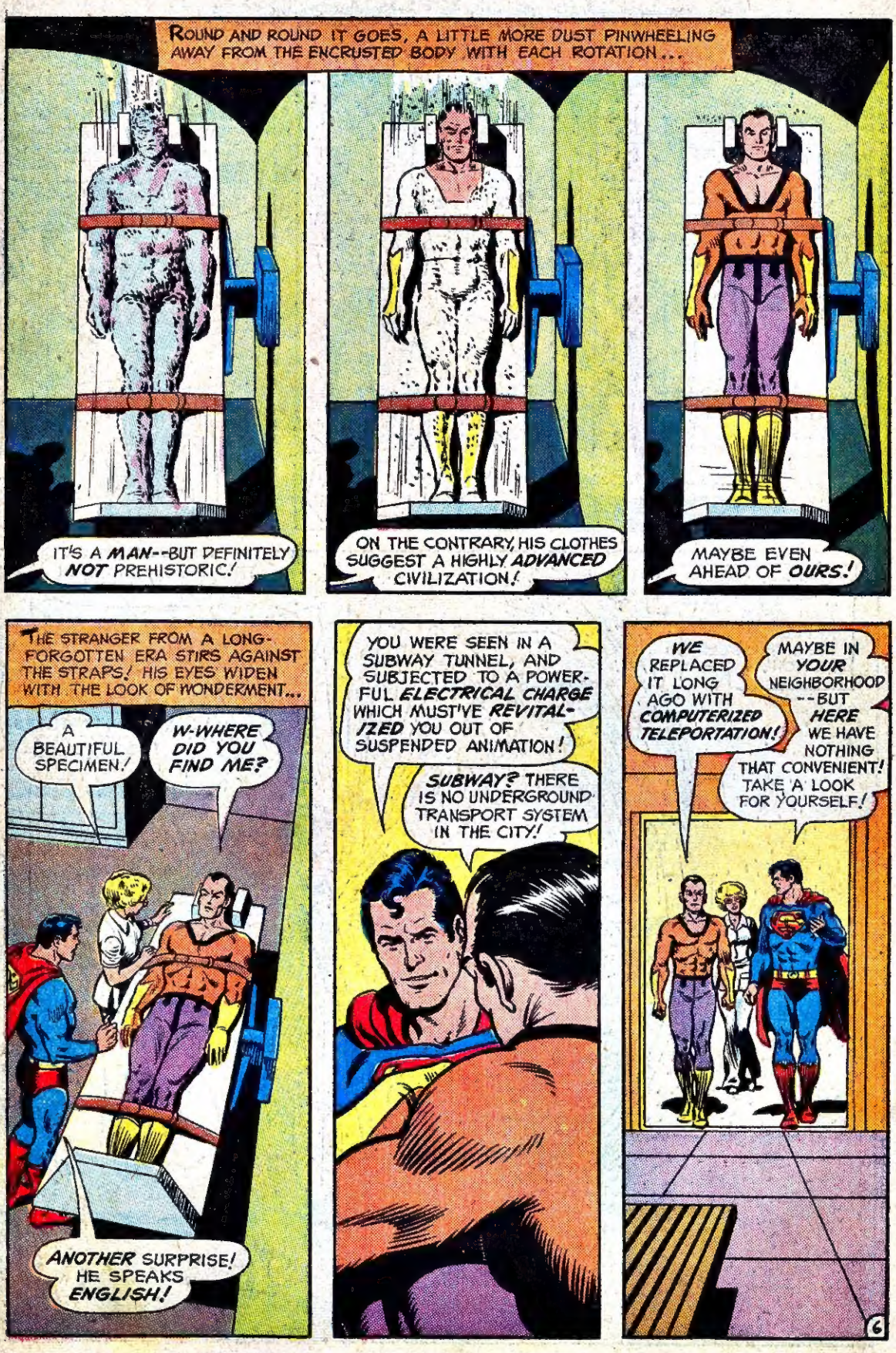
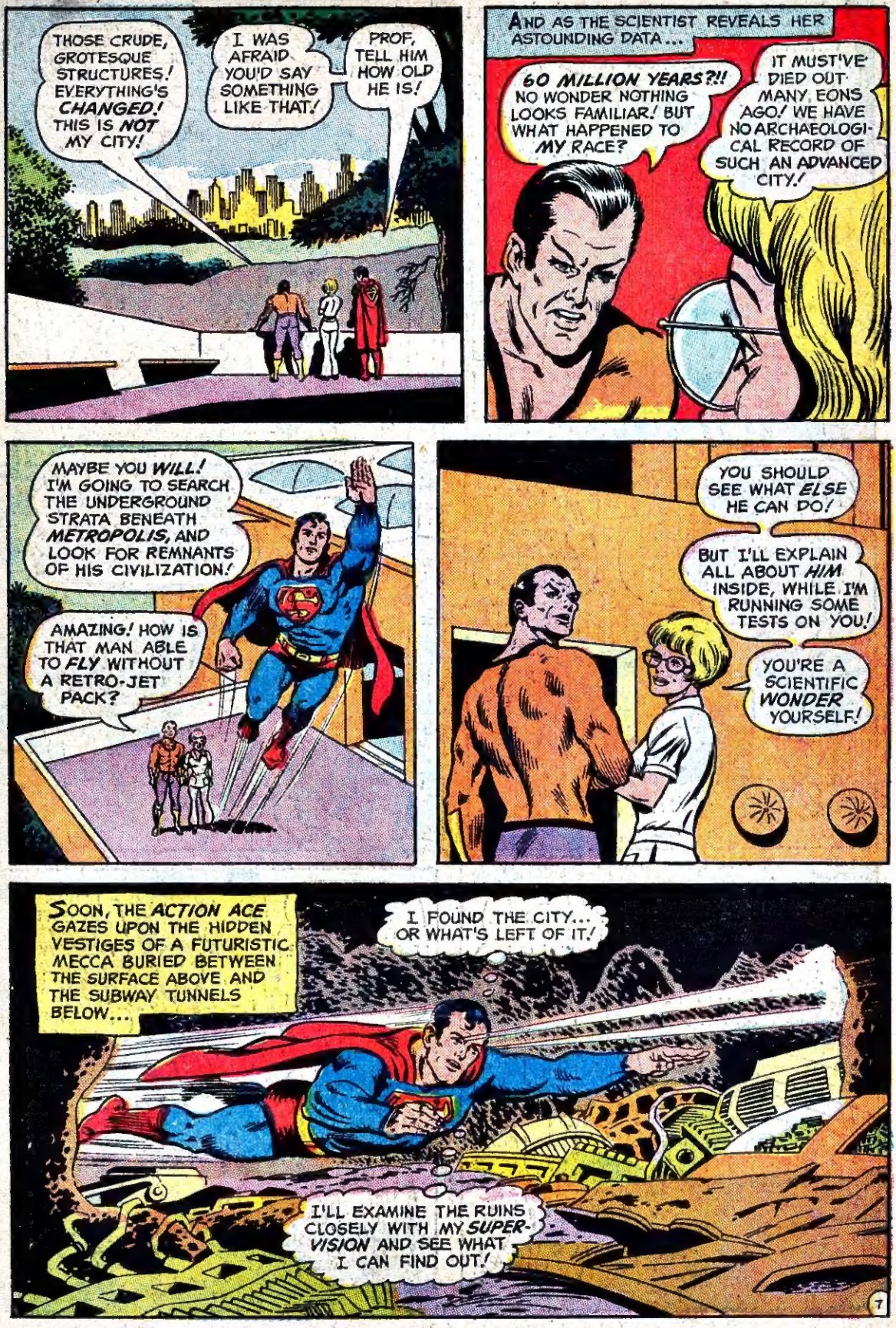
"SECRET of the FIRST METROPOLIS!"


IT'S GROPING AIMLESSLY, LIKE A BLIND MAN! I HAVE A HUNCH THIS THING DOESN'T MEAN ANY HARM! DON'T THINK IT EVEN KNOWS WHERE IT IS!
NO WAY OF TELLING WHETHER THIS HULK IS FRIEND OR FOE... AND I'M NOT MAKING ANY GUESSES UNTIL I FIND OUT EXACTLY WHAT IT IS!
SUBWAY
SCIENTISTS AT THE METROPOLIS RESEARCH INSTITUTE SHOULD BE ANXIOUS TO EXAMINE THIS FELLA AND GIVE ME AN ASSIST!
SOON...
THIS IS A TRULY MOMENTOUS FIND, SUPERMAN! THE IMPLICATIONS WILL SEND THE SCIENTIFIC WORLD REELING!
YOU'VE GOT ME INTERESTED, PROFESSOR! WHAT DID I TURN UP?
A HUMAN BEING-- ENCASED IN SOME UNKNOWN MINERAL CRUST WHICH HAS SOMEHOW KEPT HIM IN SUSPENDED ANIMATION FOR MILLIONS OF YEARS!
GREAT KRYPTON! JUST HOW OLD IS THIS MUMMY?
4


MY ANALYSIS OF THE CRUST DATES IT BACK TO THE MESOZOIC PERIOD, OVER 60 MILLION YEARS AGO-- JUST WHEN DINOSAURS WERE DYING OUT AND BECOMING EXTINCT!
INCREDIBLE! HOW COULD A HUMAN HAVE LIVED THAT FAR INTO THE PAST...
...WHEN PRE-HISTORIC MAN FIRST SET FOOT ON EARTH ONLY ONE MILLION YEARS AGO?
I DON'T HAVE AN ANSWER-- BUT MAYBE HE MIGHT TELL US... IF WE CAN SAFELY CRACK HIM OUT OF THAT MINERAL SHELL WITHOUT HARM!
HMM... IF PLACED UNDER ENOUGH STRAIN, THIS MINERAL COVERING SIFTS TO DUST!
STAND BACK, PLEASE! I THINK I KNOW A WAY TO BREAK DOWN THE CRUST WITHOUT INJURING THE BODY INSIDE!
WITH ONE THRUST, A STEELY-SINEWED ARM SETS THE REVOLVING COT IN SUPER-SPEED MOTION...
THIS SPINNING MOTION IS DOING THE TRICK!
SO THAT'S IT! YOU'VE CREATED ENOUGH CENTRI-FUGAL FORCE TO PULL THE TINY ROCK PARTICLES APART AND FLING THEM AWAY! THE CRUST IS DISSOLVING!
5


ROUND AND ROUND IT GOES, A LITTLE MORE DUST PINWHEELING AWAY FROM THE ENCRUSTED BODY WITH EACH ROTATION...
IT'S A MAN--BUT DEFINITELY NOT PREHISTORIC!
ON THE CONTRARY, HIS CLOTHES SUGGEST A HIGHLY ADVANCED CIVILIZATION!
MAYBE EVEN AHEAD OF OURS!
THE STRANGER FROM A LONG-FORGOTTEN ERA STIRS AGAINST THE STRAPS! HIS EYES WIDEN WITH THE LOOK OF WONDERMENT...
A BEAUTIFUL SPECIMEN!
W-WHERE DID YOU FIND ME?
ANOTHER SURPRISE! HE SPEAKS ENGLISH!
YOU WERE SEEN IN A SUBWAY TUNNEL, AND SUBJECTED TO A POWERFUL ELECTRICAL CHARGE WHICH MUST'VE REVITALIZED YOU OUT OF SUSPENDED ANIMATION!
SUBWAY? THERE IS NO UNDERGROUND TRANSPORT SYSTEM IN THE CITY!
WE REPLACED IT LONG AGO WITH COMPUTERIZED TELEPORTATION!
MAYBE IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD --BUT HERE WE HAVE NOTHING THAT CONVENIENT! TAKE A LOOK FOR YOURSELF!
6


THOSE CRUDE, GROTESQUE STRUCTURES! EVERYTHING'S CHANGED! THIS IS NOT MY CITY!
I WAS AFRAID YOU'D SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT!
PROF, TELL HIM HOW OLD HE IS!
AND AS THE SCIENTIST REVEALS HER ASTOUNDING DATA...
60 MILLION YEARS?!! NO WONDER NOTHING LOOKS FAMILIAR! BUT WHAT HAPPENED TO MY RACE?
IT MUST'VE DIED OUT MANY EONS AGO! WE HAVE NO ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORD OF SUCH AN ADVANCED CITY!
MAYBE YOU WILL! I'M GOING TO SEARCH THE UNDERGROUND STRATA BENEATH METROPOLIS, AND LOOK FOR REMNANTS OF HIS CIVILIZATION!
AMAZING! HOW IS THAT MAN ABLE TO FLY WITHOUT A RETRO-JET PACK?
YOU SHOULD SEE WHAT ELSE HE CAN DO!
BUT I'LL EXPLAIN ALL ABOUT HIM INSIDE, WHILE I'M RUNNING SOME TESTS ON YOU!
YOU'RE A SCIENTIFIC WONDER YOURSELF!
SOON, THE ACTION ACE GAZES UPON THE HIDDEN VESTIGES OF A FUTURISTIC MECCA BURIED BETWEEN THE SURFACE ABOVE AND THE SUBWAY TUNNELS BELOW...
I FOUND THE CITY... OR WHAT'S LEFT OF IT!
I'LL EXAMINE THE RUINS CLOSELY WITH MY SUPER-VISION AND SEE WHAT I CAN FIND OUT!

I REMEMBER NOW... IT WAS MY FATHER WHO PETRIFIED ME WITH A UNIQUE MINERAL COMPOUND HE HAD DISCOVERED! BUT HE NEVER TOLD ME WHY!
MAYBE SUPERMAN CAN FIND THE REASON!
BY THE WAY, WHAT IS YOUR NAME?
JOSDIN!
AND WHAT DO I CALL A BEAUTIFUL FEMALE LIKE YOU?
JESSICA SLOANE! YOU STILL HAVEN'T EXPLAINED HOW YOU KNOW ENGLISH!
MY RACE HAS ALWAYS HAD HIGHLY ATTUNED MENTAL POWERS! I MUST'VE ABSORBED YOUR LANGUAGE WHILE HEARING VOICES AFTER THE ELECTRIC SHOCK REVIVED ME!
AND RIGHT NOW MY MIND SENSES YOU'RE EXCITED BEING NEAR ME!
SUPERMAN!
THE CITY DOES EXIST, ALL RIGHT... BUT I'VE ONLY COME UP WITH MORE QUESTIONS AND NO ANSWERS!
YES... THESE ARE AUTHENTIC! THEN ...DECAYED ARTIFACTS AND BROKEN REMNANTS ARE CHOKE ALL THAT REMAIN OF MY PEOPLE!
BUT WHERE ARE THEY? I FOUND NO TRACE OF HUMAN SKELETONS ANYWHERE IN THE RUINS! WHAT BECAME OF THEM?
AND THAT'S NOT ALL! THE CITY JUST DIDN'T CRUMBLE UNDER NATURAL WEATHERING AND EROSION!
IT WAS VIOLENTLY TORN DOWN AND RIPPED APART BY SOME DEVASTATING OUTSIDE FORCE!
8

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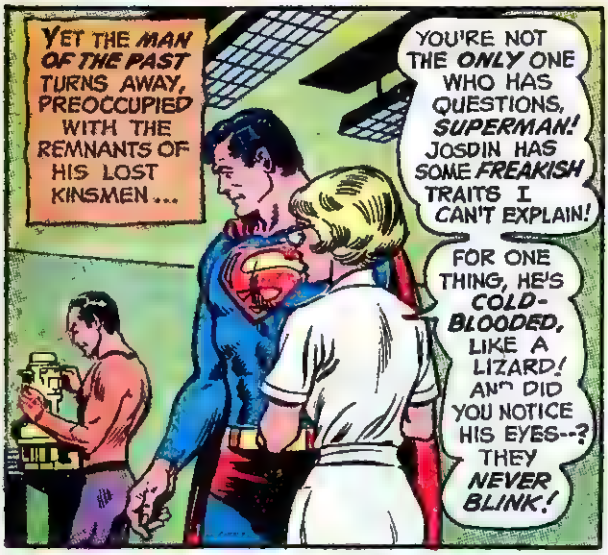
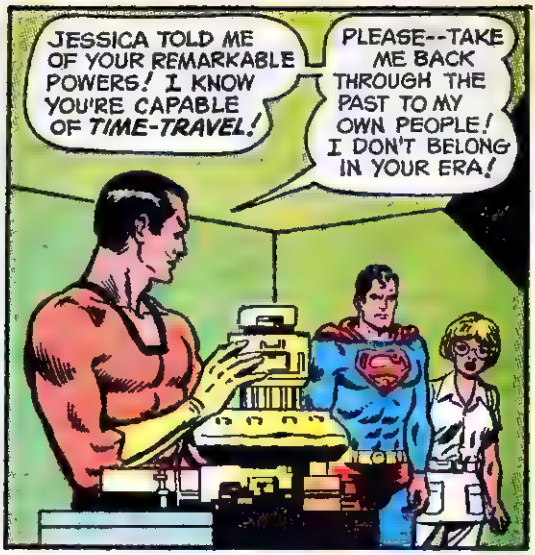
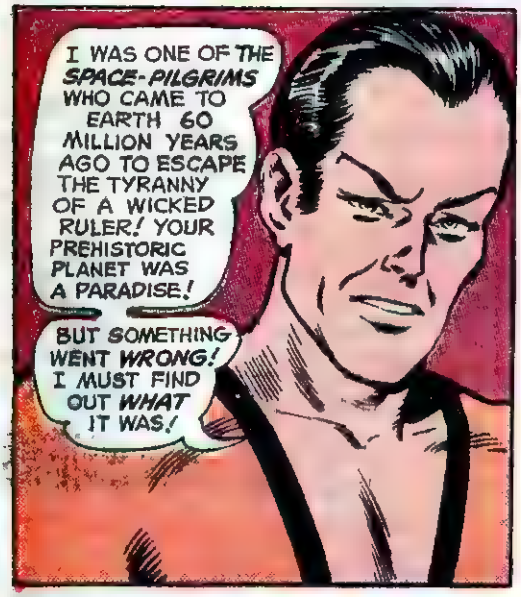
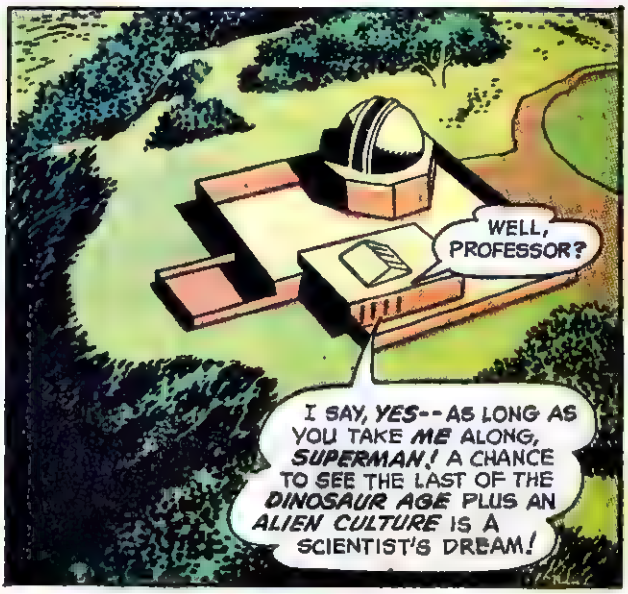
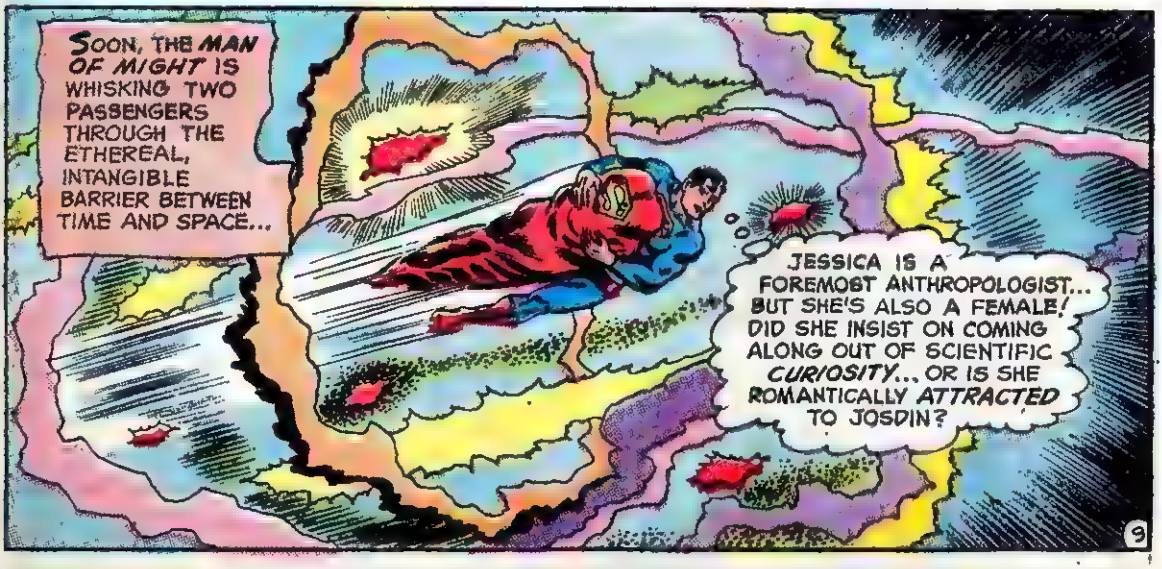
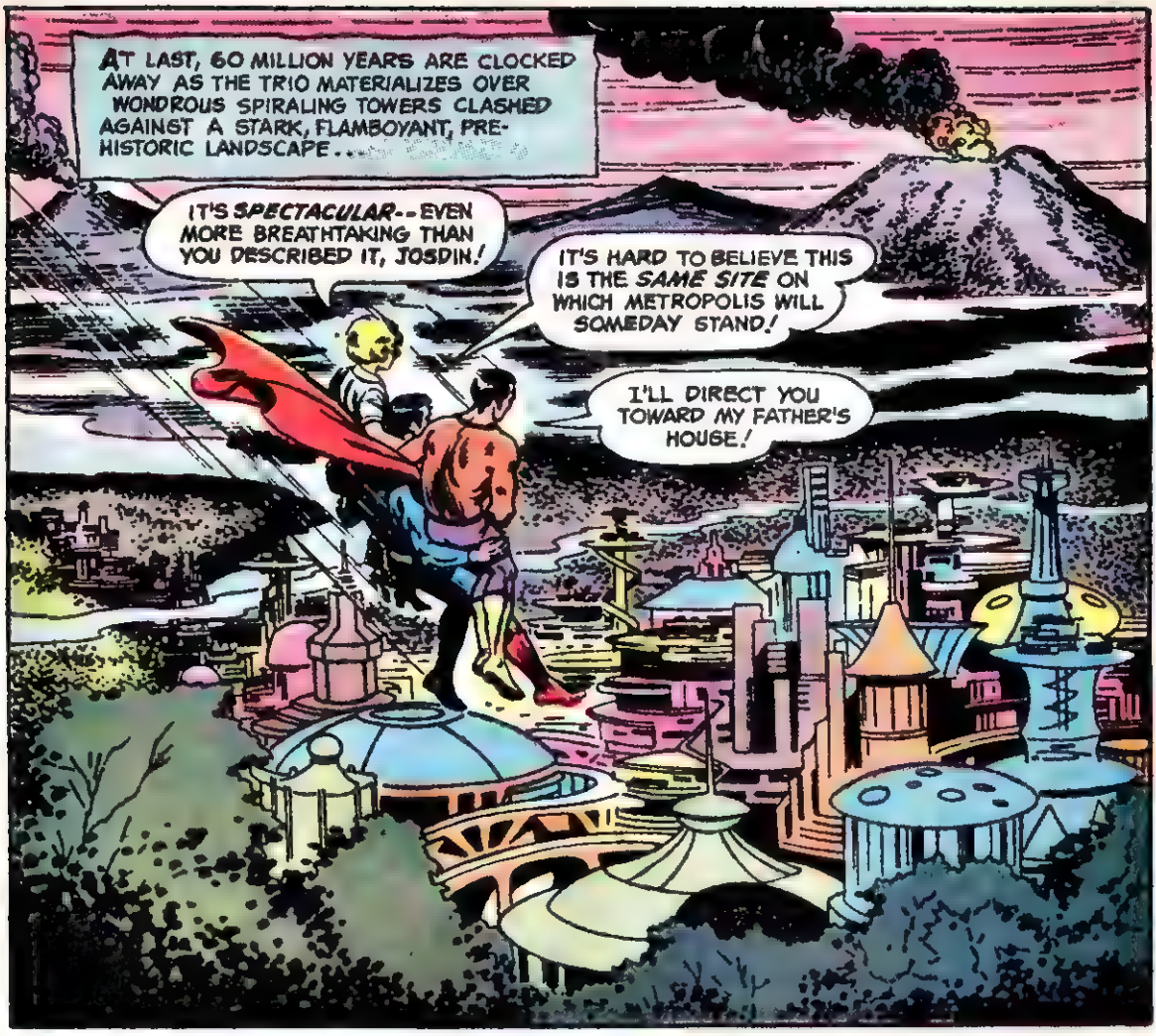

YET THE MAN OF THE PAST TURNS AWAY, PREOCCUPIED WITH THE REMNANTS OF HIS LOST KINSMEN ...
YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO HAS QUESTIONS, SUPERMAN! JOSDIN HAS SOME FREAKISH TRAITS I CAN'T EXPLAIN!
FOR ONE THING, HE'S COLD-BLOODED, LIKE A LIZARD! AND DID YOU NOTICE HIS EYES--? THEY NEVER BLINK!


JESSICA TOLD ME OF YOUR REMARKABLE POWERS! I KNOW YOU'RE CAPABLE OF TIME-TRAVEL!
PLEASE--TAKE ME BACK THROUGH THE PAST TO MY OWN PEOPLE! I DON'T BELONG IN YOUR ERA!

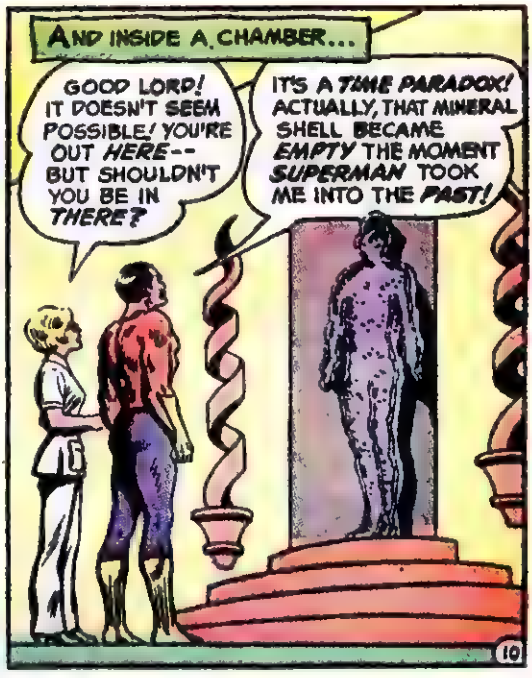

I WAS ONE OF THE SPACE-PILGRIMS WHO CAME TO EARTH 60 MILLION YEARS AGO TO ESCAPE THE TYRANNY OF A WICKED RULER! YOUR PREHISTORIC PLANET WAS A PARADISE!
BUT SOMETHING WENT WRONG! I MUST FIND OUT WHAT IT WAS!


WELL, PROFESSOR?
I SAY, YES--AS LONG AS YOU TAKE ME ALONG, SUPERMAN! A CHANCE TO SEE THE LAST OF THE DINOSAUR AGE PLUS AN ALIEN CULTURE IS A SCIENTIST'S DREAM!


SOON, THE MAN OF MIGHT IS WHISKING TWO PASSENGERS THROUGH THE ETHEREAL, INTANGIBLE BARRIER BETWEEN TIME AND SPACE...
JESSICA IS A FOREMOST ANTHROPOLOGIST... BUT SHE'S ALSO A FEMALE! DID SHE INSIST ON COMING ALONG OUT OF SCIENTIFIC CURIOSITY... OR IS SHE ROMANTICALLY ATTRACTED TO JOSDIN?


AT LAST, 60 MILLION YEARS ARE CLOCKED AWAY AS THE TRIO MATERIALIZES OVER WONDROUS SPIRALING TOWERS CLASHED AGAINST A STARK, FLAMBOYANT, PRE-HISTORIC LANDSCAPE...
IT'S SPECTACULAR--EVEN MORE BREATHTAKING THAN YOU DESCRIBED IT, JOSDIN!
IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THIS IS THE SAME SITE ON WHICH METROPOLIS WILL SOMEDAY STAND!
I'LL DIRECT YOU TOWARD MY FATHER'S HOUSE!

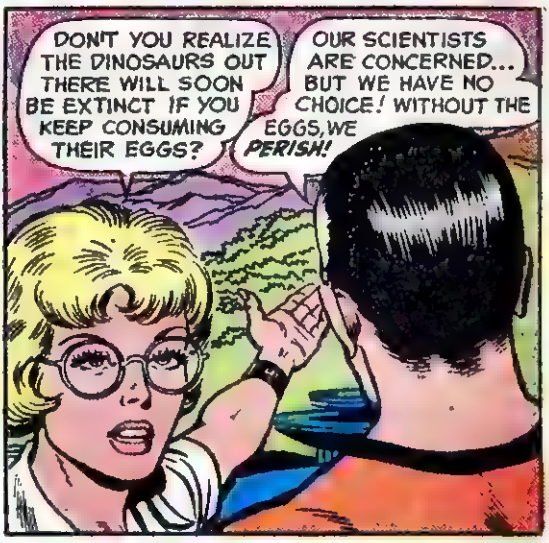
YOU TWO FIND OUT WHAT YOU CAN HERE! I'LL DO SOME INVESTIGATING ON MY OWN AND JOIN YOU LATER!


AND INSIDE A CHAMBER...
GOOD LORD! IT DOESN'T SEEM POSSIBLE! YOU'RE OUT HERE--BUT SHOULDN'T YOU BE IN THERE?
IT'S A TIME PARADOX! ACTUALLY, THAT MINERAL SHELL BECAME EMPTY THE MOMENT SUPERMAN TOOK ME INTO THE PAST!

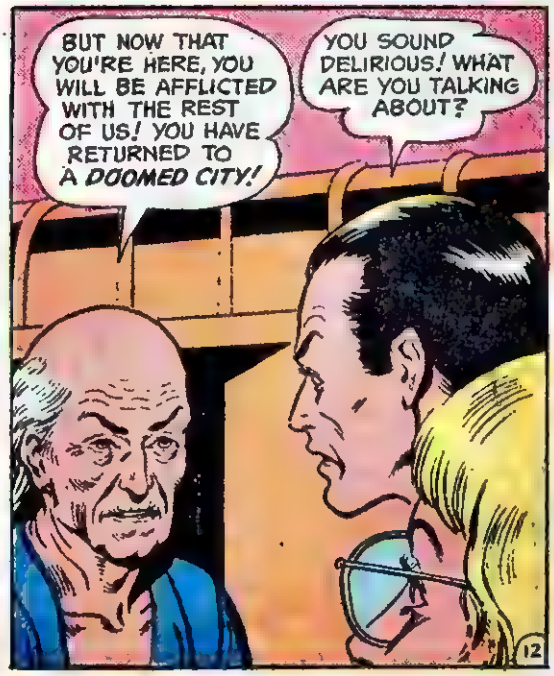
MEANWHILE...
I ALREADY DECIPHERED THE LANGUAGE! FROM ALL I SEE AND HEAR, THIS SEEMS LIKE A VASTLY INTELLIGENT, WELL-PROTECTED RACE!
YET SOMETHING DID WIPE THEIR CITY OUT!
ARRRRGGGGG
GREAT SUNS!
I'M FAMILIAR WITH ALL THE FLYING DINOSAURS... BUT NO SPECIES EVER LOOKED LIKE THIS!
IT'S ALMOST LIKE THEY'RE HALF-MEN!
THEY CERTAINLY DIDN'T GIVE ME A FRIENDLY RECEPTION... SO I'LL RETURN THEIR HOSTILITY WITH A DISPLAY OF SUPER-STRENGTH!

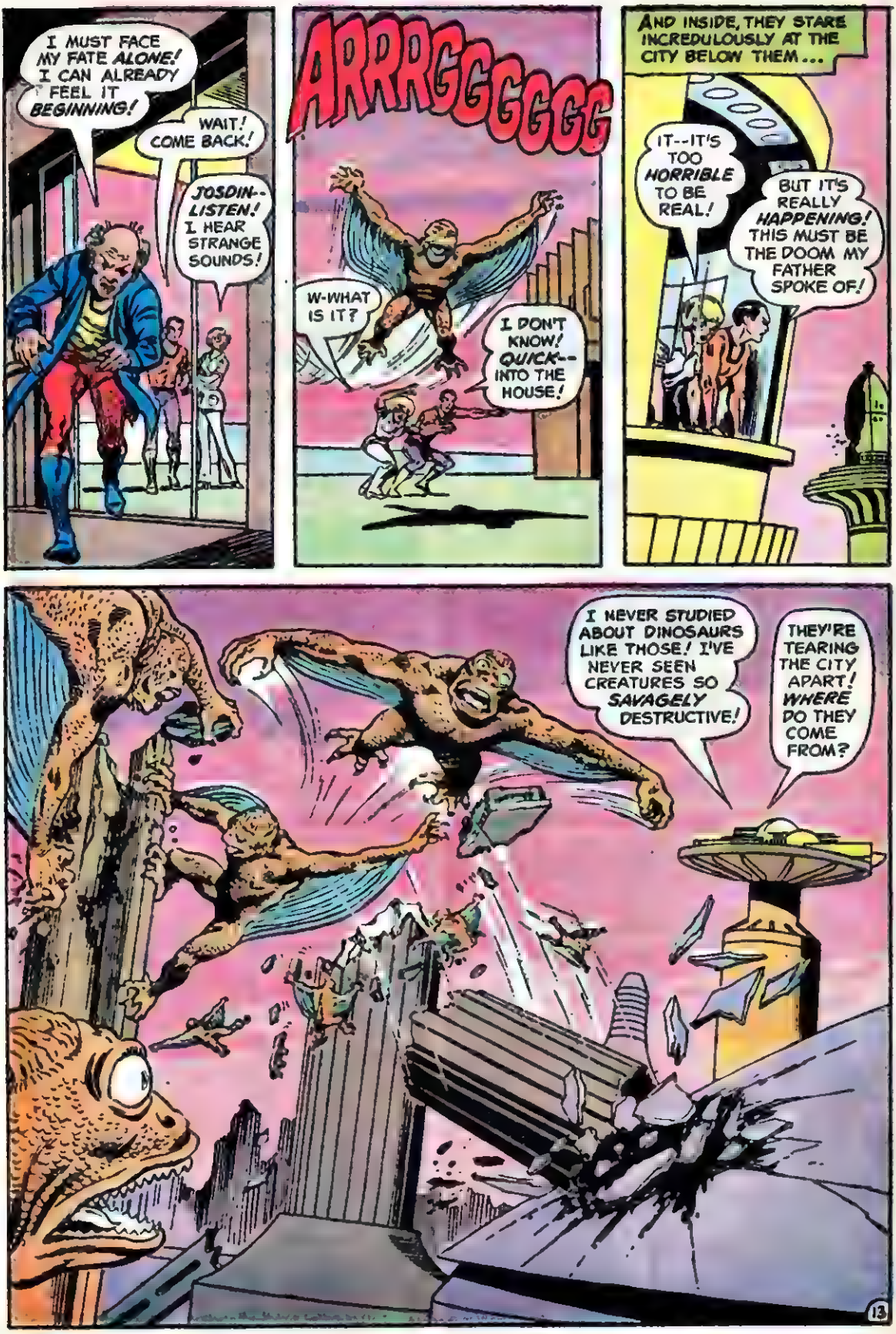
IN THE MEANTIME, JOSDIN OFFERS A TOUR OF HIS ESTATE...
I RECOGNIZE THOSE AS DINOSAURS' EGGS! BUT WHAT'S THE PURPOSE OF THAT?
IT PUTS EACH OF THE EGGS THROUGH A PURIFIER BEAM, WHICH CLEANSES THEM OF ANY HARMFUL GERMS!

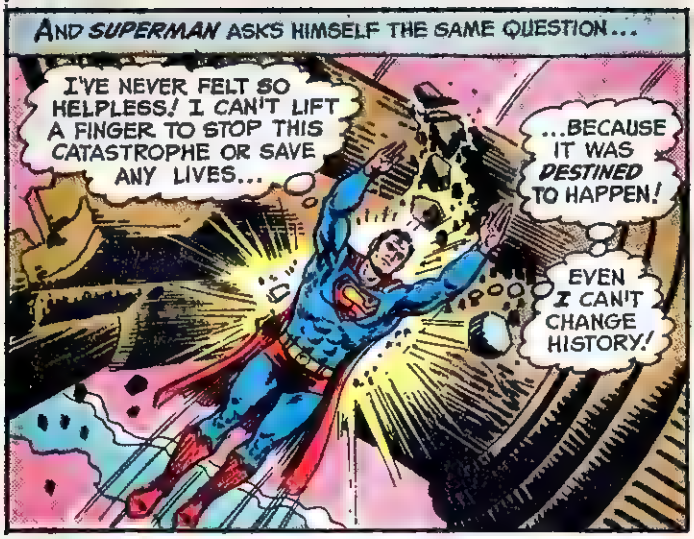
YOU SEE, THE EGGS ARE OUR ONLY FOOD!
BECAUSE OF OUR UNIQUE DIGESTIVE SYSTEMS, ALL OTHER ANIMAL AND VEGETABLE MATTER ON EARTH IS POISONOUS TO US!
SO WE MUST FLY IN HUGE QUANTITIES OF EGGS EVERY DAY!

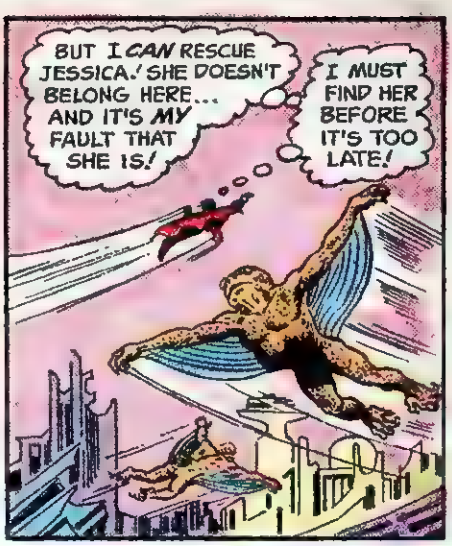

DON'T YOU REALIZE THE DINOSAURS OUT THERE WILL SOON BE EXTINCT IF YOU KEEP CONSUMING THEIR EGGS?
OUR SCIENTISTS ARE CONCERNED... BUT WE HAVE NO CHOICE! WITHOUT THE EGGS, WE PERISH!

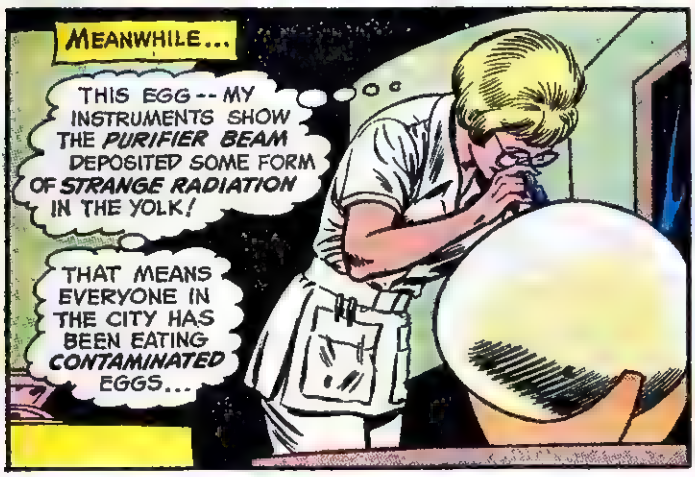
SUDDENLY...
YOU FOOL! WHY DID YOU COME BACK? I PETRIFIED YOUR BODY, HOPING YOU'D BE REVIVED IN THE FAR FUTURE--WHERE YOU MIGHT ESCAPE THE GHASTLY PLAGUE!
FATHER!

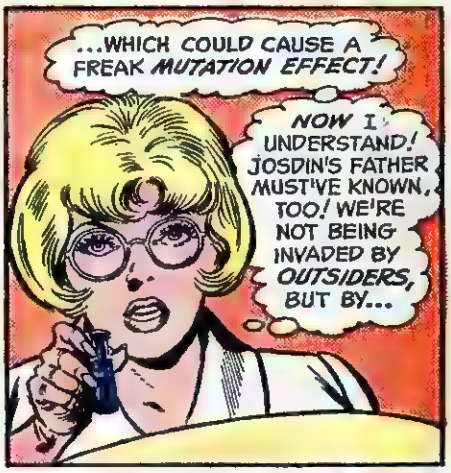

BUT NOW THAT YOU'RE HERE, YOU WILL BE AFFLICTED WITH THE REST OF US! YOU HAVE RETURNED TO A DOOMED CITY!
YOU SOUND DELIRIOUS! WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

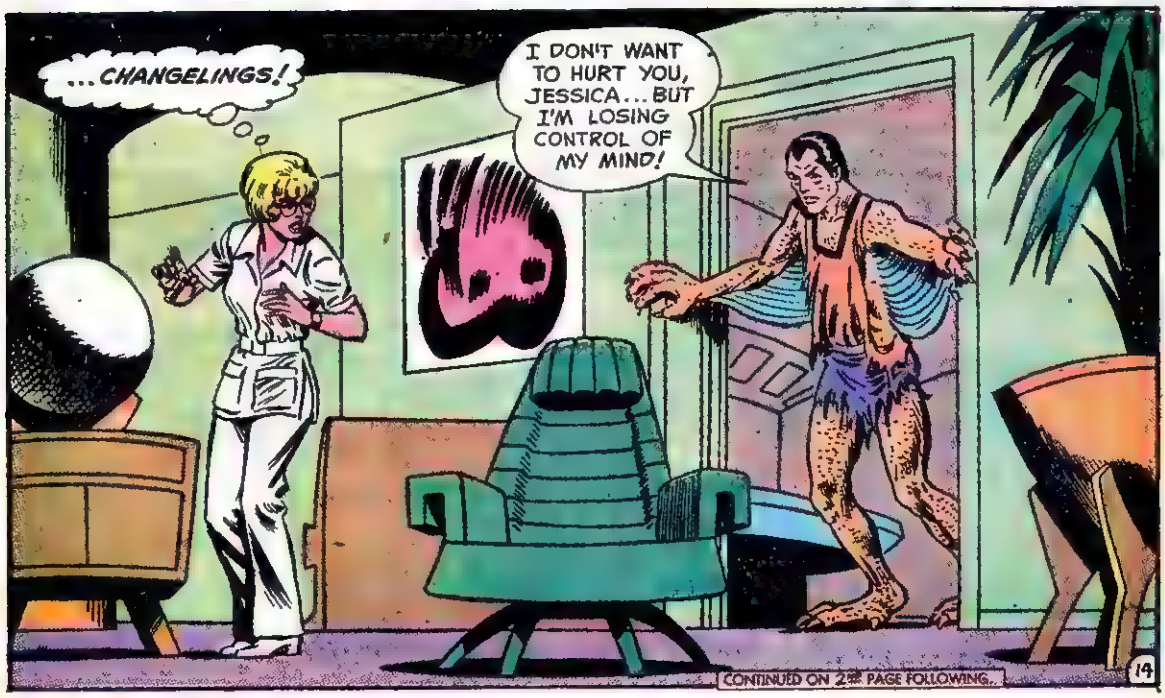

I MUST FACE MY FATE ALONE! I CAN ALREADY FEEL IT BEGINNING!
WAIT! COME BACK!
JOSDIN--LISTEN! I HEAR STRANGE SOUNDS!
ARRRGGGGG
W-WHAT IS IT?
I DON'T KNOW! QUICK--INTO THE HOUSE!
AND INSIDE, THEY STARE INCREDULOUSLY AT THE CITY BELOW THEM...
IT--IT'S TOO HORRIBLE TO BE REAL!
BUT IT'S REALLY HAPPENING! THIS MUST BE THE DOOM MY FATHER SPOKE OF!
I NEVER STUDIED ABOUT DINOSAURS LIKE THOSE! I'VE NEVER SEEN CREATURES SO SAVAGELY DESTRUCTIVE!
THEY'RE TEARING THE CITY APART! WHERE DO THEY COME FROM?
13


AND SUPERMAN ASKS HIMSELF THE SAME QUESTION...
I'VE NEVER FELT SO HELPLESS! I CAN'T LIFT A FINGER TO STOP THIS CATASTROPHE OR SAVE ANY LIVES...
...BECAUSE IT WAS DESTINED TO HAPPEN!
EVEN I CAN'T CHANGE HISTORY!

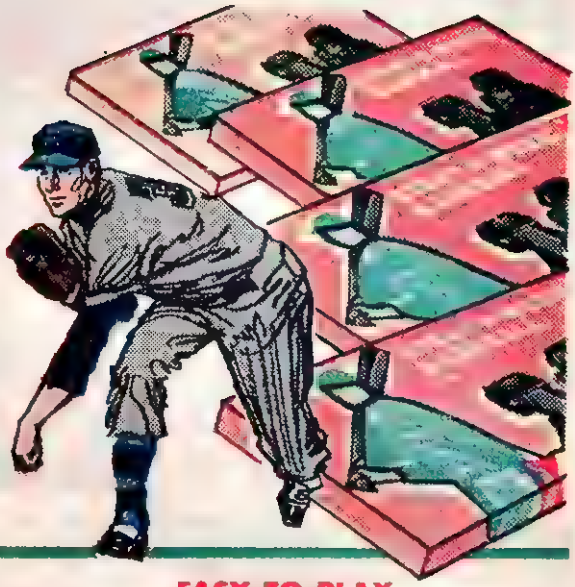

BUT I CAN RESCUE JESSICA! SHE DOESN'T BELONG HERE... AND IT'S MY FAULT THAT SHE IS!
I MUST FIND HER BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!


MEANWHILE...
THIS EGG -- MY INSTRUMENTS SHOW THE PURIFIER BEAM DEPOSITED SOME FORM OF STRANGE RADIATION IN THE YOLK!
THAT MEANS EVERYONE IN THE CITY HAS BEEN EATING CONTAMINATED EGGS...


...WHICH COULD CAUSE A FREAK MUTATION EFFECT!
NOW I UNDERSTAND! JOSDIN'S FATHER MUST'VE KNOWN, TOO! WE'RE NOT BEING INVADED BY OUTSIDERS, BUT BY...


...CHANGELINGS!
I DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU, JESSICA... BUT I'M LOSING CONTROL OF MY MIND!
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING...
14

YOU can manage in the Majors with STRAT-O-MATIC Baseball.



As a STRAT-O-MATIC Major League Manager, you'll make the actual game-deciding moves Houk, Hodges, Alston, Weaver and Murtaugh make. You'll decide when to pinch-hit, play the infield in, change pitchers, signal for hit-and-run, bunt or hit away. Only STRAT-O-MATIC BASEBALL brings you so realistically face-to-face with the decisions a Big League Manager makes on the playing fields.

You're always arguing with that guy down the block about who can manage a Big League team better. Well now you can settle that argument under as close to real game conditions as you can find this side of a Major League dugout. And have great fun doing it playing STRAT-O-MATIC Baseball, the real-to-life game that uses actual big league players according to their proven abilities. It's strictly up to YOU to manage your players — to pull them together under your leadership into the most powerful team possible.

You know your baseball. What to expect from clutch-hitting Roberto Clemente with men on base. How to pitch to Willie Mays with Willie McCovey on deck. How the good control pitchers like Fergy Jenkins seem to get stronger in the late innings while "wild men" like Nolan Ryan tire. In STRAT-O-MATIC its up to you to get the most out of your players.

DO THINGS YOUR WAY

As you watch a game on TV, aren't there times when you disagree with the manager's decision? When you'd hold Tom Seaver back an extra day to match the Cardinal's Ace, Bob Gibson. Well STRAT-O-MATIC is your chance to play Big League baseball YOUR way.

As a STRAT-O-MATIC Manager, if you make the right decisions, you're going to win. That's because we've taken every possible statistic on 480 Big League players and put them into a computer. All this vital information is brought together on an individual performance card for EACH player. In STRAT-O-MATIC, a player performs as he does on the field. Brooks Robinson makes those incredible plays at third. Frank Howard hits them out of sight.

EASY-TO-PLAY

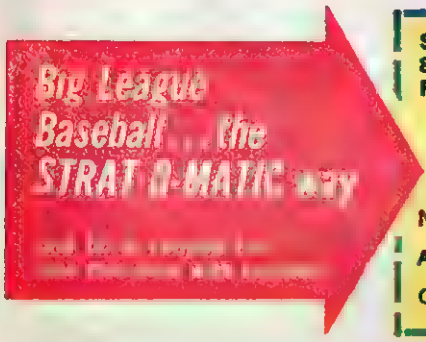
Sounds complicated? It's not. The computer does all the hard figuring. Playing STRAT-O-MATIC is easy. It's only the decisions that are hard. Should you hit and run with Boog Powell at bat. It reduces the chances of a groundball Double Play. But you take a chance on the free-swinging Powell taking a whiff as the runner is cut down at second. It's YOUR decision in STRAT-O-MATIC.

STRAT-O-MATIC Baseball begins when you make up your lineup. Would you go with Manager Spanky Anderson's day-to-day lineup for Cincinnati? Or would you slot Pete Rose in the important third place in the order rather than as lead-off? When, as Yankee Manager, is it time to yank Stan Bahnsen? Do you bring in McDaniel or Aker?

PLAY YOUR DREAM GAMES

Manage STRAT-O-MATIC against all the kids in the neighborhood. Play actual American and National League schedules. Play your inter-league "dream games" — Vida Blue on the mound for Oakland against the Mets with Tom Seaver. You can even pick your own ALL-STAR teams and manage them in a 7-game "World Series" rather than the inconclusive single game.

If you like Big League Baseball, you'll love STRAT-O-MATIC. And just playing it will help you to become a "headier" player yourself. Fill in the coupon and we'll mail you a colorful brochure explaining STRAT-O-MATIC BASEBALL in detail. It's free and includes free samples.



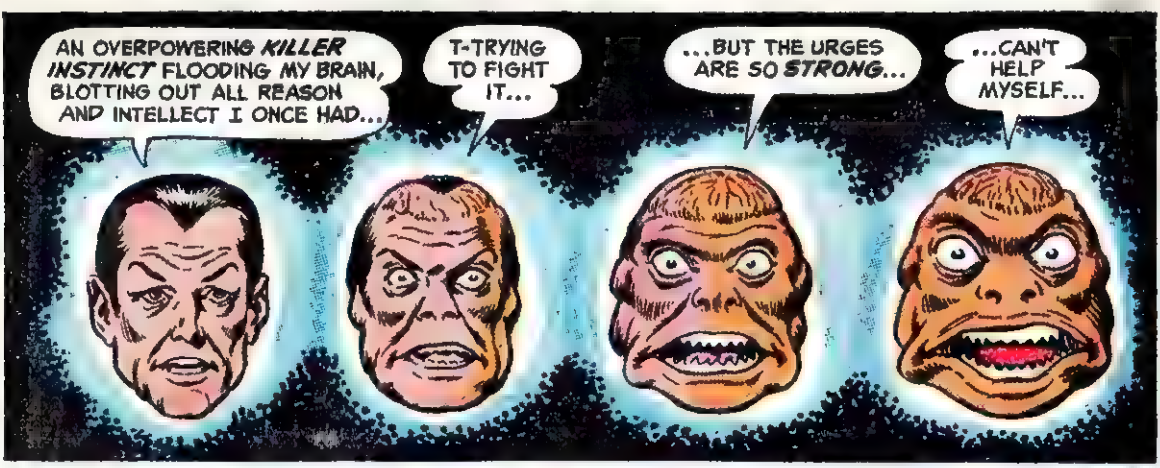
STRAT-O-MATIC GAME CO., INC. Dept. 837
82A South Bayles Avenue
Port Washington, N.Y. 11050

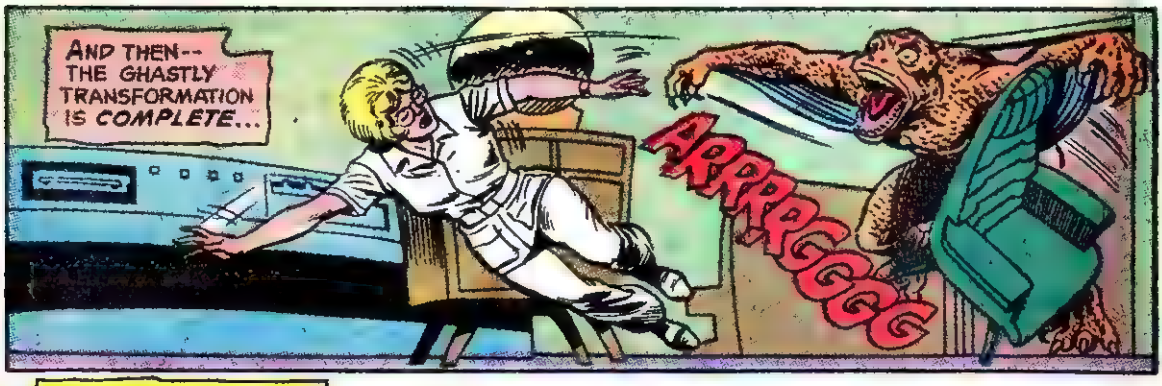
Please send me free brochure including samples of STRAT-O-MATIC Baseball.
I enclose 10 cents to cover postage and handling.

Name _____

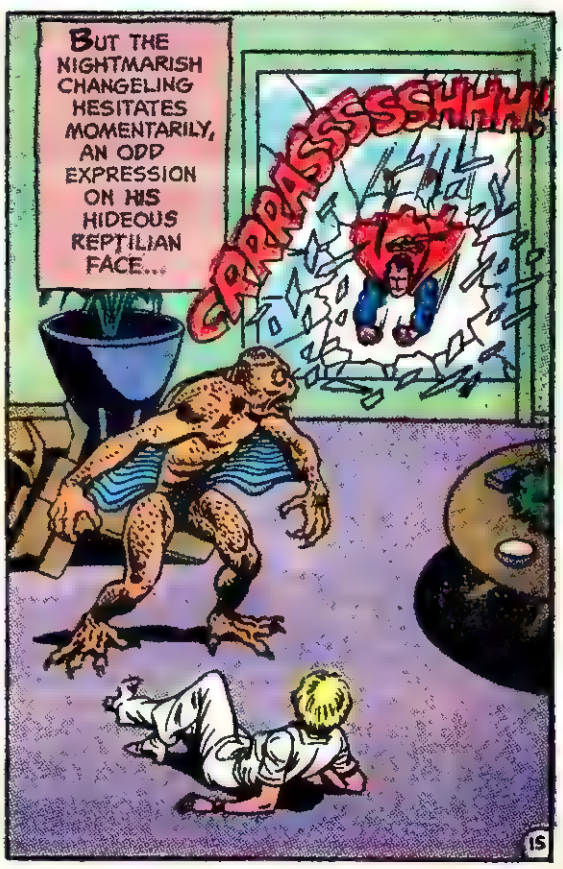
Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

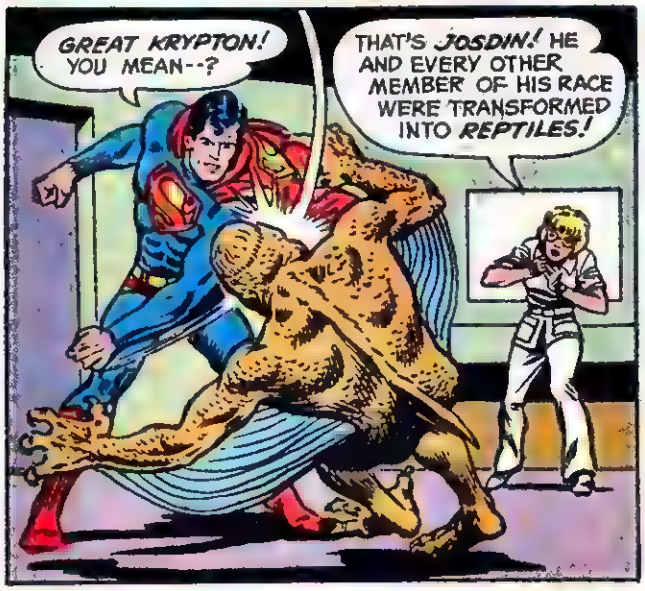

AN OVERPOWERING KILLER INSTINCT FLOODING MY BRAIN, BLOTTING OUT ALL REASON AND INTELLECT I ONCE HAD...
T-TRYING TO FIGHT IT...
...BUT THE URGES ARE SO STRONG...
...CAN'T HELP MYSELF...

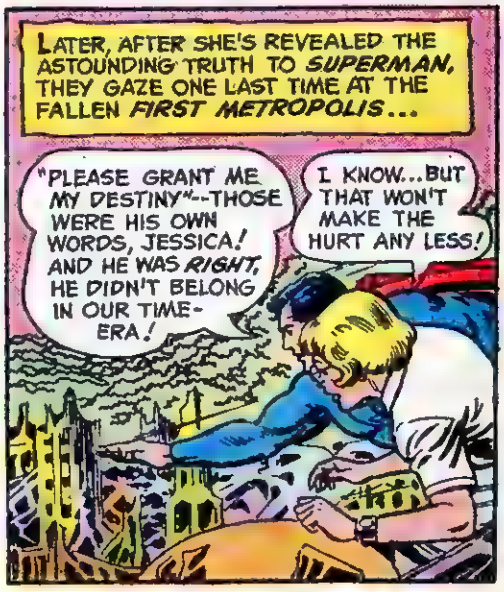

AND THEN-- THE GHASTLY TRANSFORMATION IS COMPLETE...
ARRRRGGGG

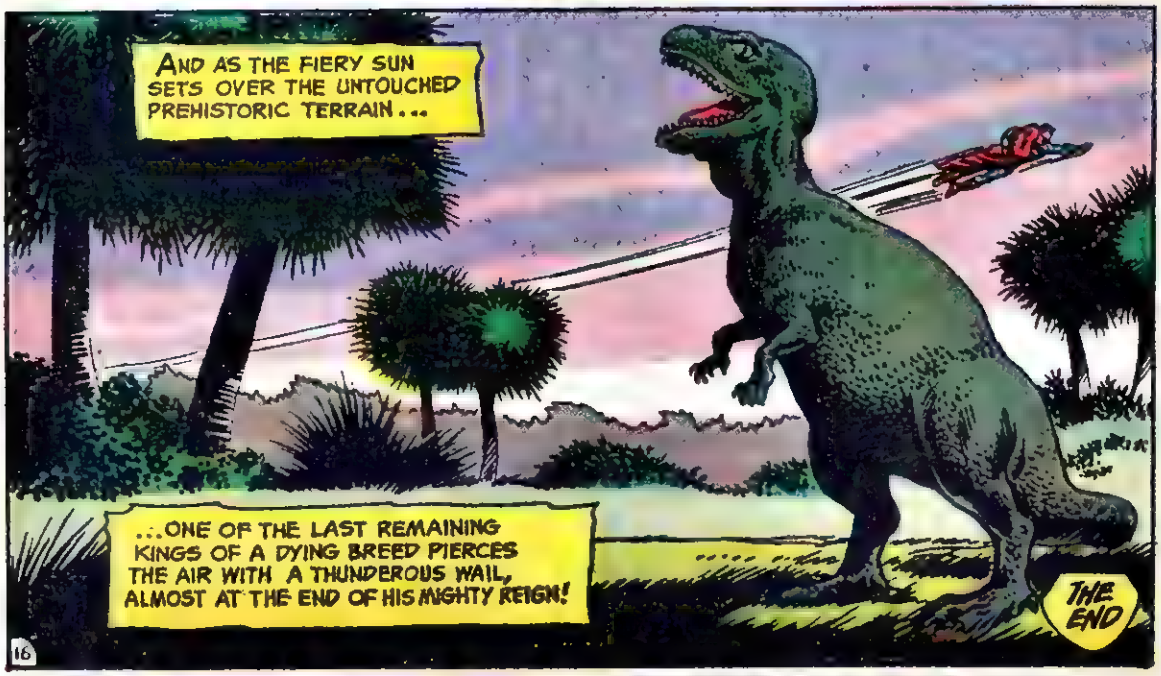
FLEEING IN PANIC, SHE STUMBLES, FALLS--AND LOOKS UP TO SEE A GRISLY DEATH STARING DOWN AT HER...
N-NOTHING CAN SAVE ME NOW...

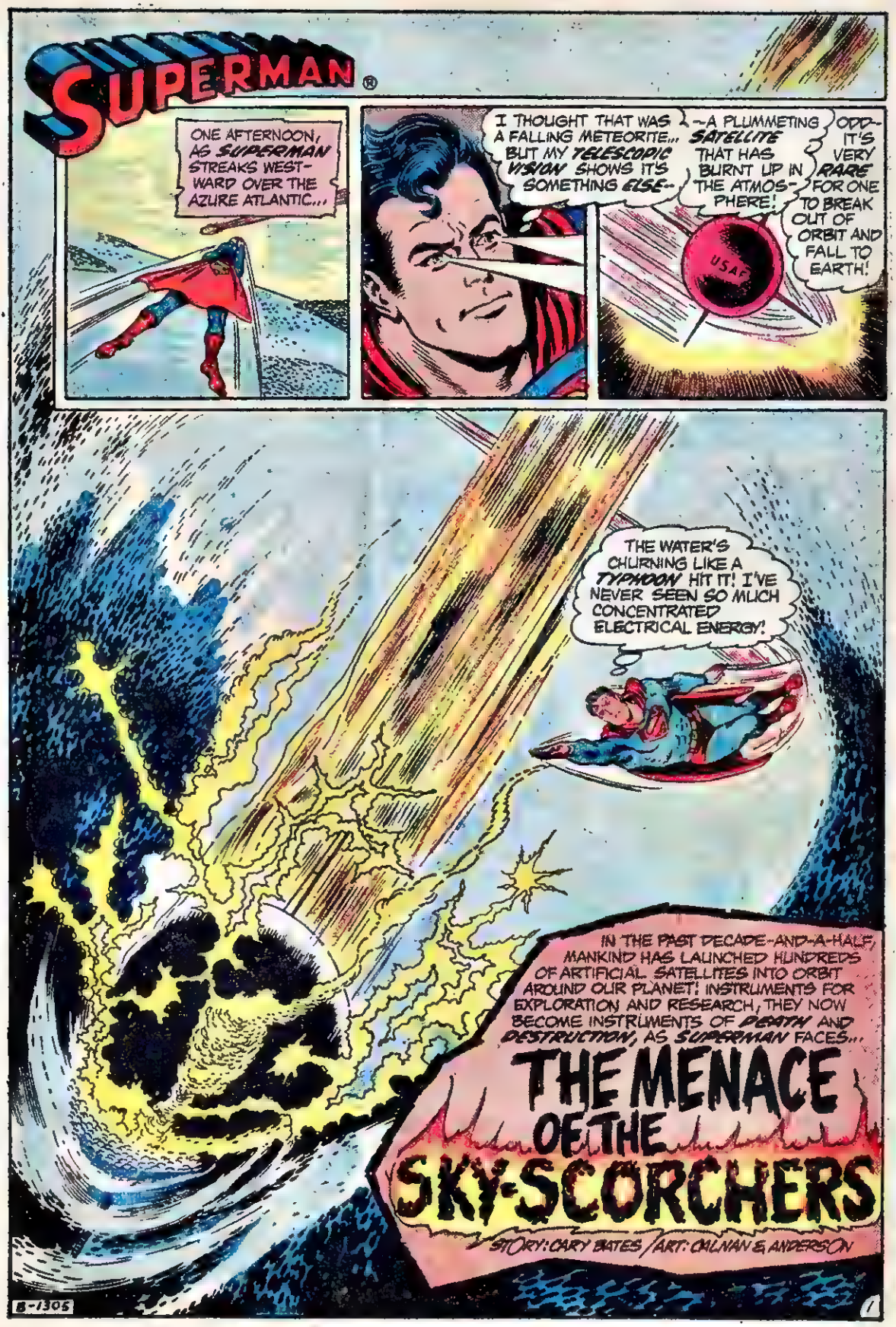

BUT THE NIGHTMARISH CHANGELING HESITATES MOMENTARILY, AN ODD EXPRESSION ON HIS HIDEOUS REPTILIAN FACE...
CRRRASSSSHHH!

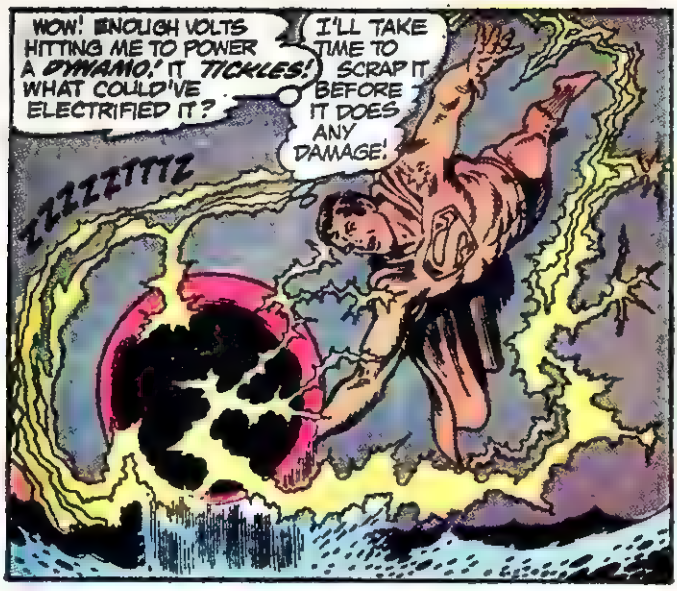
I WATCHED HIM ATTACK YOU WITH MY TELESCOPIC VISION... BUT HE PAUSED--
ARRRGGGHH
YES, HE HESITATED-- BECAUSE HIS HUMAN SIDE WAS FIGHTING NOT TO KILL ME!


GREAT KRYPTON! YOU MEAN--?
THAT'S JOSDIN! HE AND EVERY OTHER MEMBER OF HIS RACE WERE TRANSFORMED INTO REPTILES!


LATER, AFTER SHE'S REVEALED THE ASTOUNDING TRUTH TO SUPERMAN, THEY GAZE ONE LAST TIME AT THE FALLEN FIRST METROPOLIS...
"PLEASE GRANT ME MY DESTINY"--THOSE WERE HIS OWN WORDS, JESSICA! AND HE WAS RIGHT, HE DIDN'T BELONG IN OUR TIME-ERA!
I KNOW...BUT THAT WON'T MAKE THE HURT ANY LESS!


AND AS THE FIERY SUN SETS OVER THE UNTOUCHED PREHISTORIC TERRAIN...
...ONE OF THE LAST REMAINING KINGS OF A DYING BREED PIERCES THE AIR WITH A THUNDEROUS WAIL, ALMOST AT THE END OF HIS MIGHTY REIGN!
THE END

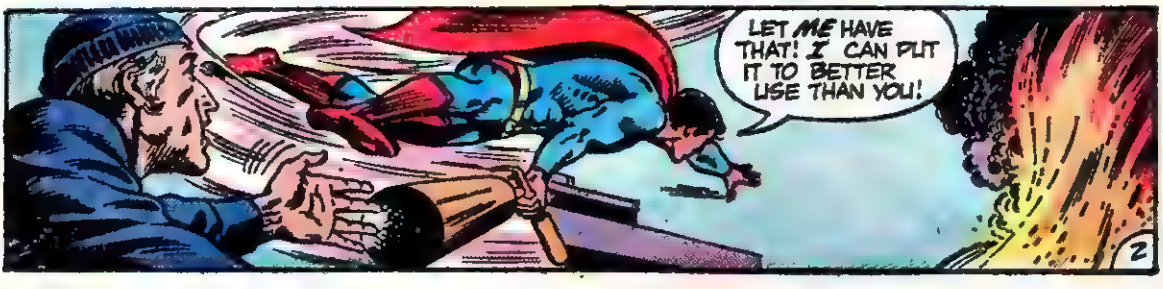

SUPERMAN ®
ONE AFTERNOON, AS SUPERMAN STREAKS WESTWARD OVER THE AZURE ATLANTIC...
I THOUGHT THAT WAS A FALLING METEORITE... BUT MY TELESCOPIC VISION SHOWS IT'S SOMETHING ELSE--
--A PLUMMETING SATELLITE THAT HAS BURNT UP IN THE ATMOSPHERE!
ODD-- IT'S VERY RARE FOR ONE TO BREAK OUT OF ORBIT AND FALL TO EARTH!
USAF
THE WATER'S CHURNING LIKE A TYPHOON HIT IT! I'VE NEVER SEEN SO MUCH CONCENTRATED ELECTRICAL ENERGY!
IN THE PAST DECADE-AND-A-HALF, MANKIND HAS LAUNCHED HUNDREDS OF ARTIFICIAL SATELLITES INTO ORBIT AROUND OUR PLANET! INSTRUMENTS FOR EXPLORATION AND RESEARCH, THEY NOW BECOME INSTRUMENTS OF DEATH AND DESTRUCTION, AS SUPERMAN FACES...
THE MENACE OF THE SKY-SCORCHERS
STORY: CARY BATES / ART: CHLNAN & ANDERSON
B-1305
1


WOW! ENOUGH VOLTS HITTING ME TO POWER A DYNAMO,' IT TICKLES! WHAT COULD'VE ELECTRIFIED IT?
I'LL TAKE TIME TO SCRAP IT BEFORE IT DOES ANY DAMAGE!
ZZZZTTTZ

NOT LONG AFTER, AS HE APPROACHES METROPOLIS HARBOR...
A FIRE ON BOARD THAT TANKER! CAN'T SAY THIS HAS BEEN A DULL DAY!

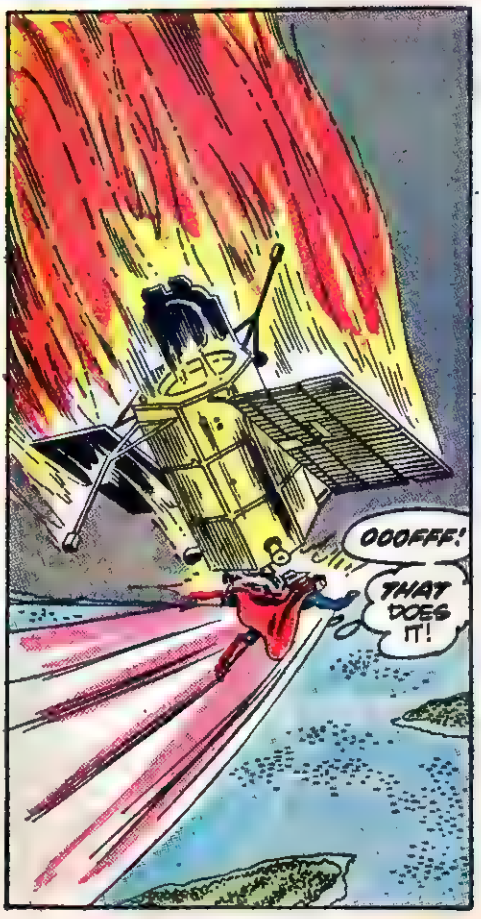
HEY, MATES, LOOK, IT'S SUPERMAN!
WHAT STARTED THE BLAZE, SAILOR?
NEVER SAW ANYTHIN' LIKE IT! IT JUST... FELL OUT OF THE SKY!

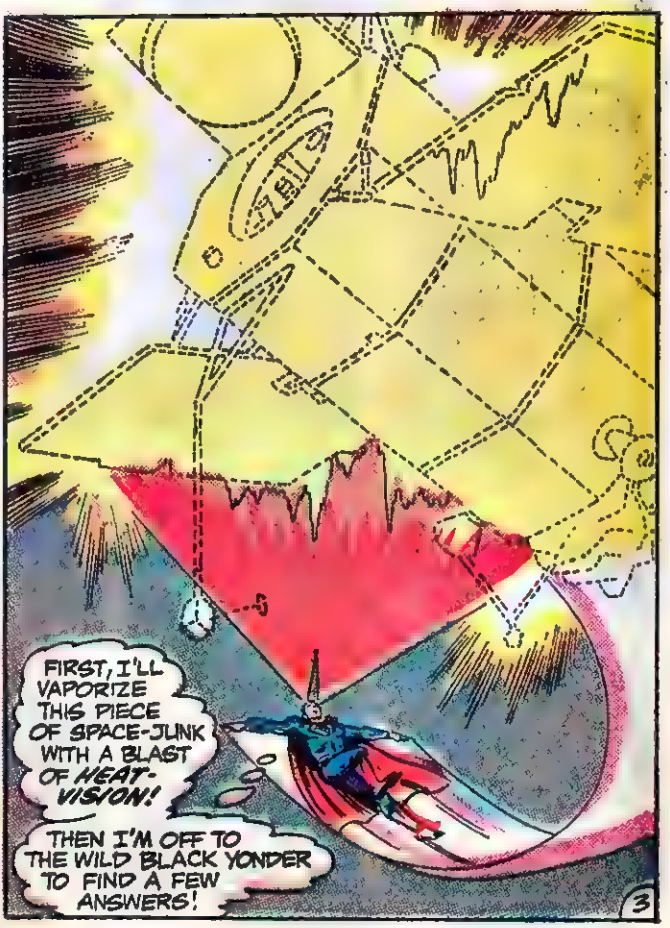
OH NO! ANOTHER SATELLITE! THE ODDS ARE MILLIONS-TO-ONE AGAINST TWO CRASHING IN THE SAME DAY!


LET ME HAVE THAT! I CAN PUT IT TO BETTER USE THAN YOU!
2

WITH SUPER-SPEED, I CAN DOUSE THE FLAMES IN SECONDS!

THOSE COULDN'T HAVE BEEN NATURAL ACCIDENTS! THE MAN-MADE SATELLITES CIRCLING EARTH SHOULD STAY IN ORBIT FOR CENTURIES BEFORE FALLING THROUGH THE ATMOSPHERE!
THERE MUST BE SOMETHING AFFECTING THEM UP THERE!


OOOFFF!
THAT DOES IT!


FIRST, I'LL VAPORIZE THIS PIECE OF SPACE-JUNK WITH A BLAST OF HEAT-VISION!
THEN I'M OFF TO THE WILD BLACK YONDER TO FIND A FEW ANSWERS!

THERE SEEMS TO BE A DEFINITE PATTERN BETWEEN THE CRASH-DOWN AREAS OF THOSE THREE SATELLITES! BY BACKTRACKING THEIR TRAJECTORIES, I SHOULD BE ABLE TO CALCULATE THE EXACT POINT WHERE THEY BROKE ORBIT!
SOON, ON THE RIM OF OUTER SPACE...
LOOKS LIKE I'VE FOUND IT! THERE GOES ANOTHER ONE STARTING TO FALL!
I'LL MAKE SURE IT NEVER GETS ANY CLOSER TO EARTH--
--BY CATAPULTING THE CAPSULE INTO ITS OWN ORBIT AROUND THE SUN!
I HAVE A HUNCH SOMETHING ON EARTH BELOW IS DRAWING THEM DOWNWARD AT THIS PARTICULAR SPOT!
THERE'S THE SOURCE OF THE TROUBLE, NO DOUBT-- BECAUSE OF THE BEAM IT'S PROJECTING INTO SPACE!
WAIT'LL I TELL THAT FOOL THE TROUBLE HE'S BEEN CAUSING--!
LISTEN, YOU--
WHY, IT'S A LITTLE GIRL!
CONTINUED ON 42ND PAGE FOLLOWING.
4

WOW!

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ALL DIFFERENT

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If you join now and agree to buy ten more records (at regular Club prices)

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208397

207977

198911

204438

203372

191742

208272

207076

186809

208538

201699

172411

200204

208306

201772

201780

203919

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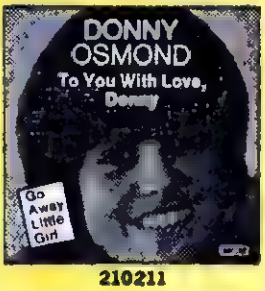

210211

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209874

198986

207993

196246

203539

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206144

202523

205526

201749

209148

210252

209726

210351

Yes, it's true! — if you join now, you may have ANY 14 of these records for only $2.86. Just mail the application at the right, together with your check or money order for $2.86. In exchange . . .

You agree to buy just ten records (at regular Club prices) in the coming two years — and you may cancel membership at any time after doing so.

will be opened upon enrollment . . . and the records you order as a member will be mailed and billed at the regular Club price of $4.98 or $5.98 each, plus processing and postage. (Multi-record sets are somewhat higher.)

You may accept or reject records as follows: every four weeks you will receive a new copy of the Club's music magazine, which describes the regular selection for each musical interest . . . plus hundreds of alternate selections.

in any month, just return the selection card provided by the date specified

. . . **If you want only the regular selection** for your musical interest, you need do nothing — it will be shipped to you automatically

. . . **If you want any of the other records offered,** just order them on the selection card and return it by the date specified

. . . **and from time to time** we will offer some special albums, which you may reject by returning the special dated form provided . . . or accept by simply doing nothing.

You'll be eligible for our bonus plan upon completing your enrollment agreement — a plan which enables you to get one record of your choice free (only 25¢ for processing and postage) for every one you buy thereafter. Act now — fill in and mail the application today!

Columbia Record Club a service of Columbia House Terre Haute, Indiana 47808

COLUMBIA RECORD CLUB, Terre Haute, Indiana 47808

I am enclosing check or money order for $2.86 as payment for the 14 records below. Please accept my membership application. I agree to purchase ten records (at regular Club prices) during the coming two years, and may cancel membership any time thereafter. If I continue, I'll be eligible for your bonus plan.

Send these 14 records—I've enclosed check or money order for $2.86

All records will be described in advance in the Magazine, sent every four weeks. If I do not want any record, I'll return the selection card by the date specified . . . or use the card to order any record I want. If I want only the regular selection for my musical interest, I need do nothing—it will be sent automatically. From time to time, I'll be offered special albums which I may accept or reject by using the dated form provided.

MY MAIN MUSICAL INTEREST IS (check one only):

☐ Easy Listening ☐ Young Sounds ☐ Jazz
☐ Country ☐ Broadway & Hollywood ☐ Classical

☐ Mr.
☐ Miss.....
☐ Mrs. (Please print) First Name Initial Last Name

Address.....

City.....

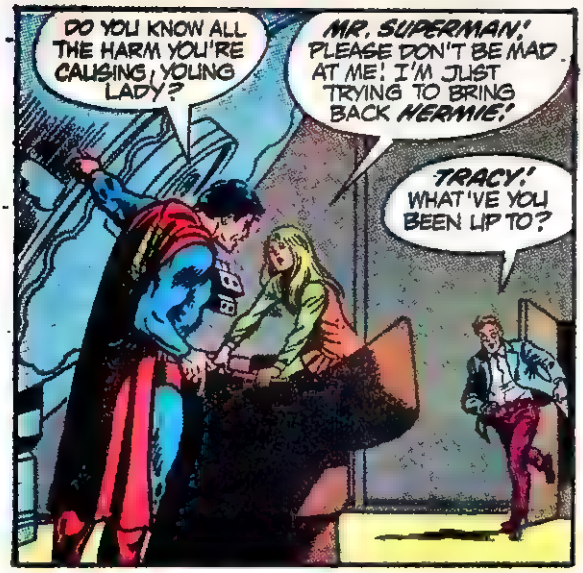
State..... Zip.....

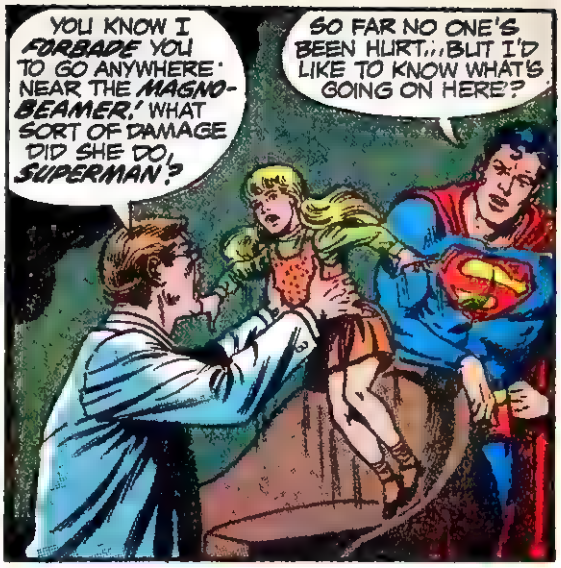
Do you have a telephone? (check one) ☐ YES... ☐ NO

APO/FPO addressees: write for special offer

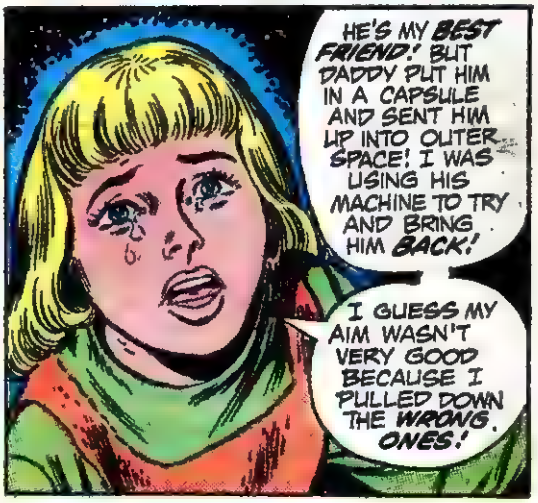
(89-Z) E14

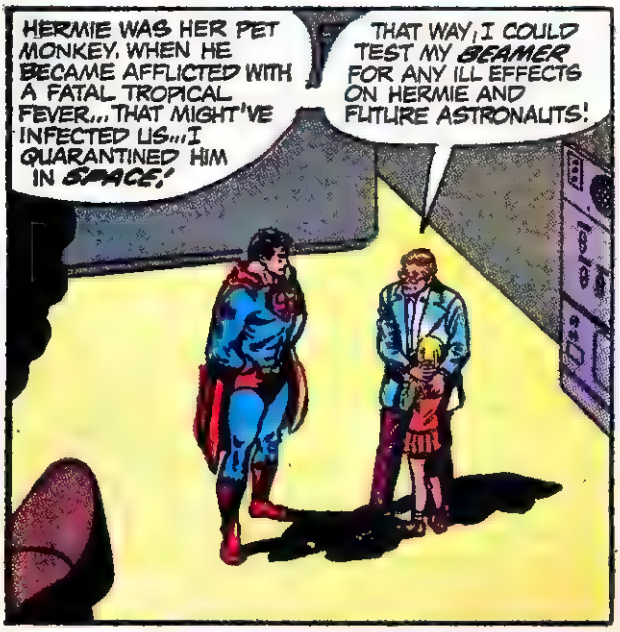
E3/E3

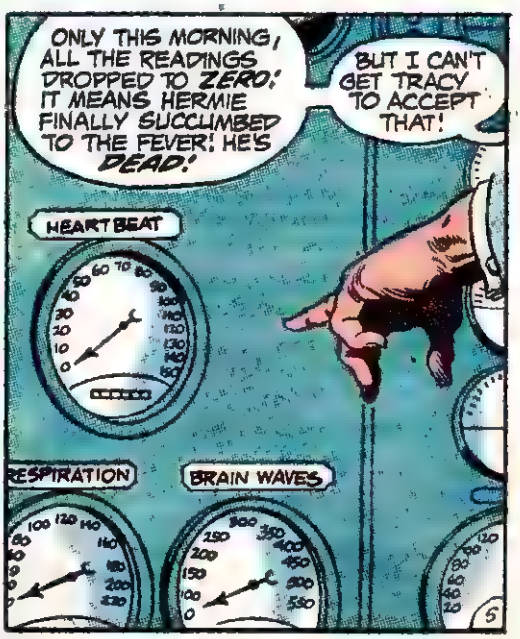

DO YOU KNOW ALL THE HARM YOU'RE CAUSING, YOUNG LADY?
MR. SUPERMAN! PLEASE DON'T BE MAD AT ME! I'M JUST TRYING TO BRING BACK HERMIE!
TRACY! WHAT'VE YOU BEEN UP TO?

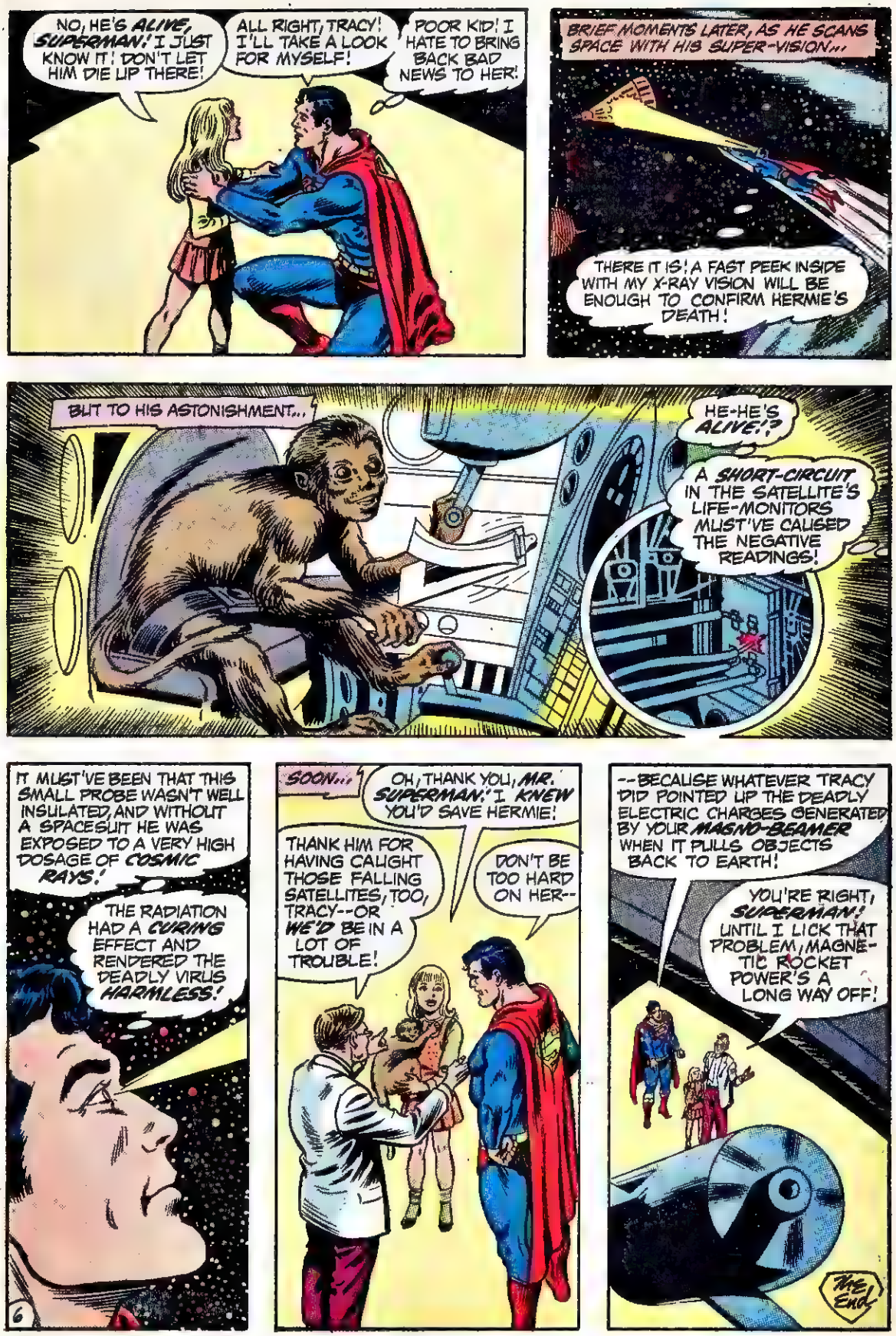

YOU KNOW I FORBADE YOU TO GO ANYWHERE NEAR THE MAGNO-BEAMER! WHAT SORT OF DAMAGE DID SHE DO, SUPERMAN?
SO FAR NO ONE'S BEEN HURT... BUT I'D LIKE TO KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

I'M PAUL STEWART, AN AEROPHYSICIST! I MONITOR THIS NASA TRACKING STATION! AND IN MY SPARE TIME I'VE BEEN DEVELOPING AN EXPERIMENTAL MAGNETIC PROPULSION BEAMER TO REPLACE CONVENTIONAL ROCKET ENGINES!
SO, IT'S MAGNETISM THAT'S BEEN PULLING DOWN THE SATELLITES! BUT WHO'S HERMIE?


HE'S MY BEST FRIEND! BUT DADDY PUT HIM IN A CAPSULE AND SENT HIM UP INTO OUTER SPACE! I WAS USING HIS MACHINE TO TRY AND BRING HIM BACK!
I GUESS MY AIM WASN'T VERY GOOD BECAUSE I PULLED DOWN THE WRONG ONES!


HERMIE WAS HER PET MONKEY. WHEN HE BECAME AFFLICTED WITH A FATAL TROPICAL FEVER... THAT MIGHT'VE INFECTED US... I QUARANTINED HIM IN SPACE!
THAT WAY, I COULD TEST MY BEAMER FOR ANY ILL EFFECTS ON HERMIE AND FUTURE ASTRONAUTS!


ONLY THIS MORNING, ALL THE READINGS DROPPED TO ZERO! IT MEANS HERMIE FINALLY SUCCUMBED TO THE FEVER! HE'S DEAD!
BUT I CAN'T GET TRACY TO ACCEPT THAT!
HEART BEAT
RESPIRATION
BRAIN WAVES
5


NO, HE'S ALIVE, SUPERMAN! I JUST KNOW IT! DON'T LET HIM DIE UP THERE!
ALL RIGHT, TRACY! I'LL TAKE A LOOK FOR MYSELF!
POOR KID! I HATE TO BRING BACK BAD NEWS TO HER!
BRIEF MOMENTS LATER, AS HE SCANS SPACE WITH HIS SUPER-VISION...
THERE IT IS! A FAST PEEK INSIDE WITH MY X-RAY VISION WILL BE ENOUGH TO CONFIRM HERMIE'S DEATH!
BUT TO HIS ASTONISHMENT...
HE-HE'S ALIVE!?
A SHORT-CIRCUIT IN THE SATELLITE'S LIFE-MONITORS MUST'VE CAUSED THE NEGATIVE READINGS!
IT MUST'VE BEEN THAT THIS SMALL PROBE WASN'T WELL INSULATED, AND WITHOUT A SPACESUIT HE WAS EXPOSED TO A VERY HIGH DOSAGE OF COSMIC RAYS!
THE RADIATION HAD A CURING EFFECT AND RENDERED THE DEADLY VIRUS HARMLESS!
6
SOON...
OH, THANK YOU, MR. SUPERMAN! I KNEW YOU'D SAVE HERMIE!
THANK HIM FOR HAVING CAUGHT THOSE FALLING SATELLITES, TOO, TRACY--OR WE'D BE IN A LOT OF TROUBLE!
DON'T BE TOO HARD ON HER--
--BECAUSE WHATEVER TRACY DID POINTED UP THE DEADLY ELECTRIC CHARGES GENERATED BY YOUR MAGNO-BEAMER WHEN IT PULLS OBJECTS BACK TO EARTH!
YOU'RE RIGHT, SUPERMAN! UNTIL I LICK THAT PROBLEM, MAGNETIC ROCKET POWER'S A LONG WAY OFF!
THE END

THE SUPERMAN LEGEND

B-1257

How familiar are you with Superman's background ...his origin...his various powers and weaknesses... and his private life? The following nuggets of information will help new readers to catch up with long-time fans in the lore of the Man of Steel.

Superman was born on the planet Krypton, a super-sized world revolving around a red sun. His father was Jor-El, his mother Lara, and he himself was named Kal-El. When little Kal was about two years old, Jor-El, a brilliant scientist who had long predicted that Krypton would one day explode, saw his prophecy being fulfilled, as quakes began to rend the planet. He sent his son to Earth in the only space vehicle he had, a model rocket. So, although Jor-El and Lara died with their world, Kal survived.

On Earth, little Kal-El was found and adopted by Jonathan and Martha Kent, who named him Clark (Martha's maiden name). They soon discovered their son's awesome powers, and carefully trained him to use them wisely. As soon as he was old enough, he began his career as Superboy, hiding his identity behind the spectacles of meek, mild Clark Kent when not in super-action.

Kal-El had no super-powers on Krypton, but gained them on Earth due to two factors. First, there was Earth's gravity, which is much lighter than that of Krypton. Since his muscles are adapted to the strong gravitational pull of his home world, Superman can lift fantastic weights, leap incredible distances, and travel at eye-blurring speed. Also, Earth's yellow sun, which is hotter than the red sun of Krypton, gives him additional powers. These include super-vision, super-hearing, invulnerability, a super-mind, and an added anti-gravity power that enables him not only to leap high, but literally to fly.

The summer following Clark's graduation from high school, his foster parents, the Kents, died. That fall, Clark started college at Metropolis University. During his sophomore year, a professor, suspecting Clark was Superboy, gave him a lie-detector test. Clark declared that he was not Superboy—and this was true, for since he was now an adult, he was no longer Superboy, but Superman.

After graduation, Clark went job-hunting and wound up as a reporter for the Daily Planet. He had chosen this career as a boy, because a reporter is always on top of things—getting news of crimes and emergencies before the general public. However, this has meant a gradual change in his character as Clark. In order to be a good reporter, he has had to tone down his meekness to some extent, since a man who is too timid could never have the courage to go after a big story. Besides, Lois Lane likes him better when he shows a little spunk.

Superman's skin, hair and nails—and even the corneas of his eyes—are invulnerable. Nothing can even scratch them except some object from Krypton; This makes no difference when it comes to his personal appearance, however. He never needs a shave, haircut, or manicure, because his beard, hair and nails do not grow under Earth's yellow sun.

Superman does have weaknesses. He is vulnerable to magic, for instance. But his main "Achilles' Heel" is Kryptonite, a substance formed by the explosion of his home world. The major form, Green Kryptonite, will weaken him immediately, and, if he is exposed to it long enough, it can kill him. A type of blood poisoning is caused by Green K radiations. If he were killed by Green K, Superman's skin would turn green.

Soon after Kryptonite was formed, some of this substance passed through various space clouds containing cosmic radiation. This changed their color and various properties. Red Kryptonite has weird, unpredictable effects on Superman (or any other Kryptonian). These effects are temporary, and no piece of Red K can affect anyone twice. Gold K can remove a super-Kryptonian's powers permanently. And White K doesn't affect Superman at all. But it can kill any form of plant life, no matter what planet it comes from.

The origin of Blue Kryptonite is different from the other varieties. It was created by the same Imperfect Duplicator Ray that formed the Bizarros. These are whacky doubles of Superman and his friends. They live on a square world and do things the opposite of the way we do them on Earth. Just as Green Kryptonite can kill Superman, Blue K can destroy his Bizarro duplicates. **However, all Green Kryptonite on Earth is no longer harmful to Superman.**

Kryptonite is the only thing from Krypton that does not become indestructible under a yellow sun. Thus, it can be broken, carved and melted. And a Kryptonite bullet could never penetrate Superman's super-skin—though the radiation from it could harm him. However, Kryptonite is immune to friction heat, so it does not burn up when it enters Earth's atmosphere, as most meteors do.

The United Nations has made Superman an honorary citizen of all its member nations. He is therefore privileged to cross their borders at any time without the usual customs formalities, as he often must do in

carrying out his vital missions. Supergirl has also been awarded this honor.

In order to break through the time-barrier, Superman flies faster than the speed of light—clockwise to reach the past and counter-clockwise to reach the future. Exactly how far into the past or future he goes depends on his speed.

Superman has several vision powers. His X-ray vision can penetrate any substance except lead. Some people wonder how he can see through painted walls, since paint often contains lead. But the amount of lead in a coat or two of paint is not sufficient to stop the Man of Might's X-rays. No limits of his telescopic vision have ever been discovered, since he can see to distant planets. His microscopic vision can magnify anything, no matter how small—even an electron. And his heat vision can melt the hardest steel with its massive concentration of infra-red rays. Used at lower intensity, his infra-red vision enables Superman to see in the dark.

Standing in his arctic Fortress, Superman could, if he wished, hear a penguin splashing in the water in the antarctic. Yet if he used his super-hearing at full power, he would only get an unintelligible hubbub of sound. Fortunately, he can tune in on any sound he wishes, while shutting out all others. Normally, when not using his super-hearing, he can only hear sounds in his immediate vicinity. There is one exception, though. His ears are always tuned to one frequency, beyond the range of normal human hearing—the frequency of Jimmy Olsen's signal-watch.

With his incredible powers, Superman could have the riches of the universe at his command. So he could easily retire and live a life of ease. But that would never satisfy him, because his super-brain constantly demands new challenges—new problems to solve. When he isn't on a mission, the Action Ace keeps busy with many hobbies, including painting, sculpture and research in all branches of science.

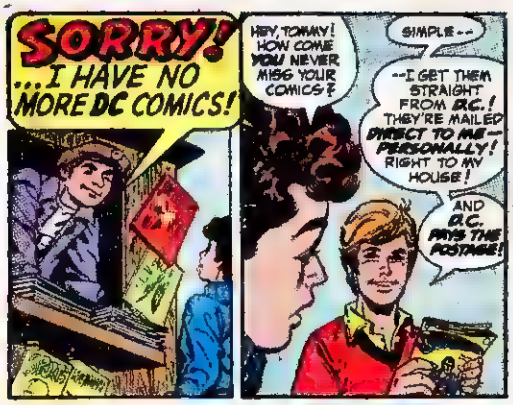
Superman realizes that he has great obligations not to misuse his great powers, as he could easily do. He has vowed never to kill. So when he hits a crook, he must carefully pull his punch. To hit an ordinary man with his full power could easily kill the opponent. If he ever does such a thing, Superman has vowed to hang up his cape and retire.

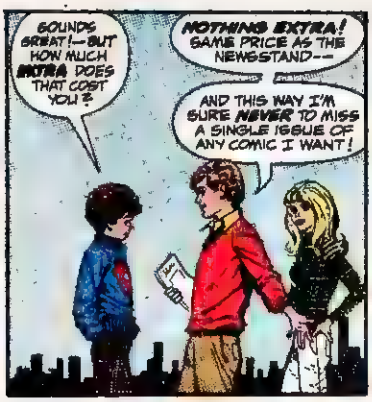
Is there anything Superman can't do? Yes! He has actually suffered several defeats. He was unable to save Ma and Pa Kent when they were dying. He has never found an antidote for Kryptonite poisoning, despite years of experimentation. He has not found a safe way to enlarge Kandor. And in many tries, he has found it impossible to change the past. Once, when he went back in time to Krypton, he helped start a project which might have saved the people of that planet when it exploded. But the site of the project was Kandor—and before it could be completed, Brainiac stole the city.

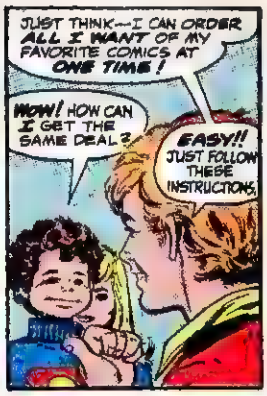
When Clark changes to his Superman identity, he super-compresses his street clothes and hides them in a secret pouch in the lining of his cape. His shoes are made of a special resilient plastic which can be harmlessly compressed to wafer-thinness.

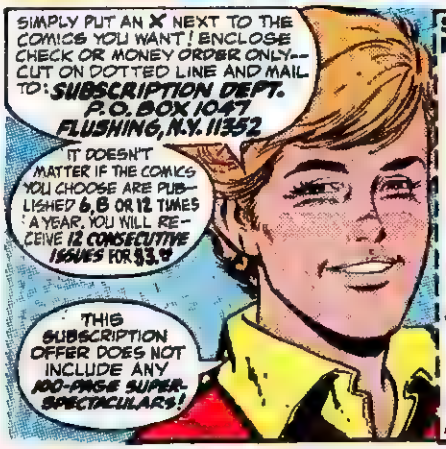
The Metropolis Marvel is always very careful about covering up his secret identity. As Superman, he speaks in a deep, resonant voice, while as Clark he speaks in a higher tone. He also alters his handwriting when he changes his identity. Even an expert could not tell the signatures of Clark and Superman were written by the same hand.

Superman's family on Krypton was quite distinguished. Among his ancestors were Val-El, one of the first great sea explorers of Krypton; Sul-El, who invented Krypton's first telescope, Tala-El, who wrote the constitution of the united planet Krypton; Hatu-El, who first harnessed electricity to serve man; and Gam-El, the architect who designed many of Krypton's greatest buildings. His father, Jor-El, was an inventor and a member of Krypton's ruling body, the Science Council. Jor's twin brother, Nim-El, was a weapons scientist. And their younger brother, Zor-El, Supergirl's dad, was also a distinguished scientist. Nim-El lived in Kandor, the city which was stolen by Brainiac, shrunk to tiny size, and placed in a bottle. Nim's son, Don-El, lives there today. He is the head of the Superman Emergency Squad.









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ON SALE MARCH 30

ALSO--JOHN CARTER OF MARS

DR. BRUCE GORDON IS AWARE OF THE FRIGHTENING FACT THAT DURING AN ECLIPSE HE CHANGES TO HIS OTHER SELF -- THE TREACHEROUS GENIUS, **ECLIPSO**! YET HE IS UNPREPARED FOR THE TRAP HIS CUNNING FOE SETS ON THE MOST IMPROBABLE BATTLE-FIELD OF ALL -- **SPACE** -- WHICH ECHOES TO THE...

ECLIPSO

DUEL of the DIVIDED MAN

FROM THE VAST UNDERGROUND LAB COMPLEX BENEATH THE DEBRIS OF SOLAR CITY, AN ELEVATOR RISES BEARING A UNIQUE MACHINE...
HEAD FOR THE SEA, BRUCE! WHEN THAT ECLIPSE OF THE SUN TAKES PLACE, WE'VE GOT TO HAVE FIVE MILES OF WATER OVER US!
INSIDE ARE DR. BRUCE GORDON, BRILLIANT YOUNG SCIENTIST, AND HIS MENTOR, FAMED PHYSICIST PROF. BENNETT...
THE DARKNESS OF THE OCEAN DEPTHS MAY PREVENT YOUR TRANSFORMATION INTO...ECLIPSO!
I HOPE SO, PROFESSOR! LAST TIME HE APPEARED, HE ALMOST KILLED YOU AND GOT AWAY!
THINKING ABOUT MONA?
YES... IT'S TERRIBLE, NOT BEING ABLE TO TELL THE GIRL I LOVE THAT I TURN INTO AN EVIL BEING EVERY TIME THERE'S AN ECLIPSE! NOTHING LIKE THIS EVER HAPPENED TO A MAN!
BUT OUT OF SIGHT AND HEARING IN A STORAGE LOCKER...
I STOWED AWAY TO FIND OUT WHY BRUCE AND DAD ARE ACTING SO STRANGELY LATELY! THERE'S AN AWFUL MYSTERY ABOUT BRUCE NEITHER WILL REVEAL!
SHORTLY, ALONG A DESOLATE BEACH, THE MACHINE STALKS INTO THE SEA...
TAKE HER DOWN, BRUCE! E-HOUR'S APPROACHING FAST!
NEGATIVE BUOYANCY TANKS FILLED, PROFESSOR! HERE WE GO!
CONTINUED ON PAGE 3
2

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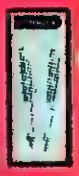

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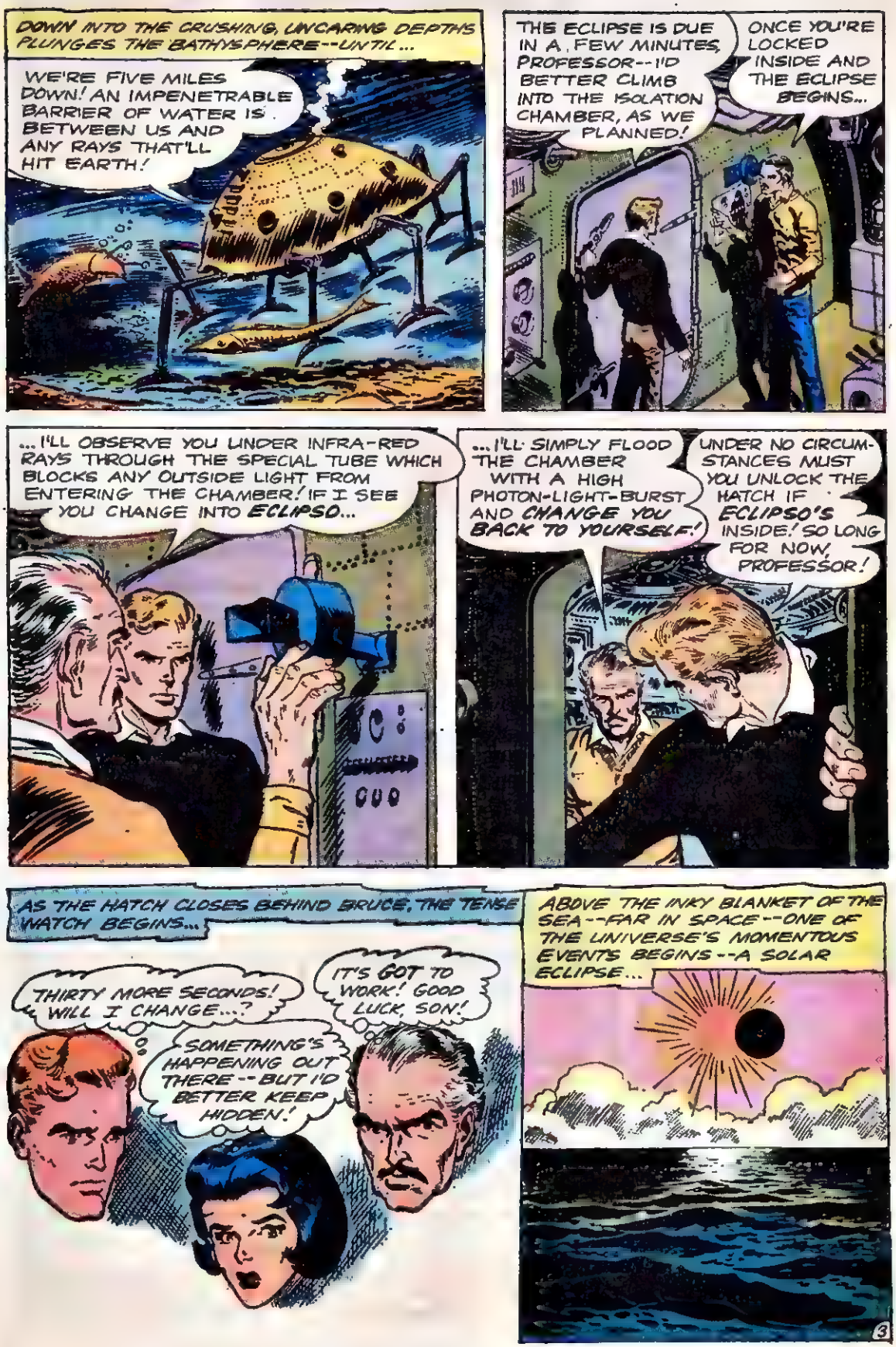
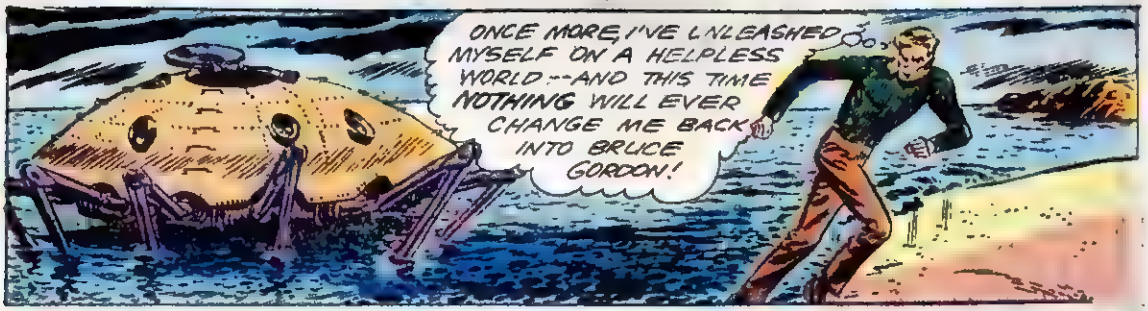
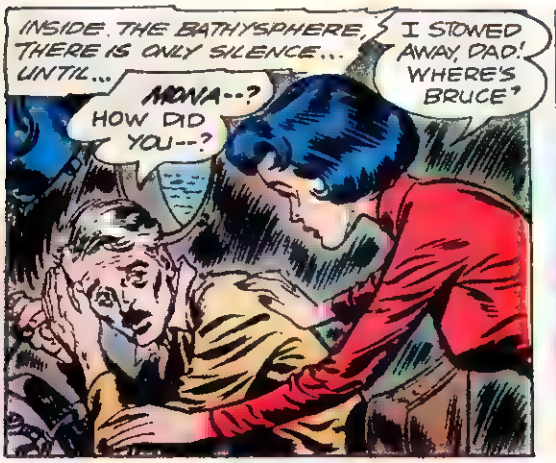
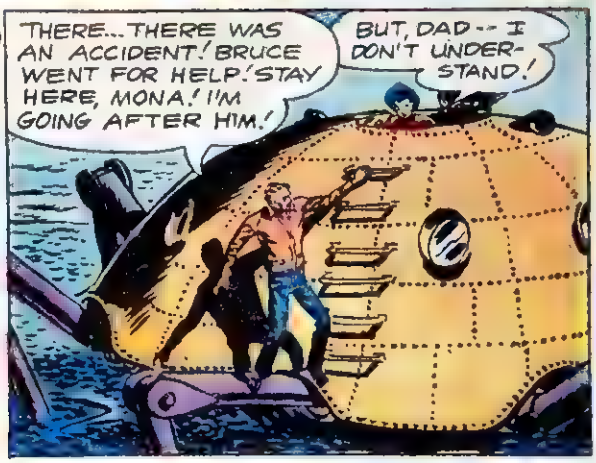

DOWN INTO THE CRUSHING, UNCARING DEPTHS PLUNGES THE BATHYSPHERE--UNTIL...
WE'RE FIVE MILES DOWN! AN IMPENETRABLE BARRIER OF WATER IS BETWEEN US AND ANY RAYS THAT'LL HIT EARTH!
THE ECLIPSE IS DUE IN A FEW MINUTES, PROFESSOR--I'D BETTER CLIMB INTO THE ISOLATION CHAMBER, AS WE PLANNED!
ONCE YOU'RE LOCKED INSIDE AND THE ECLIPSE BEGINS...
...I'LL OBSERVE YOU UNDER INFRA-RED RAYS THROUGH THE SPECIAL TUBE WHICH BLOCKS ANY OUTSIDE LIGHT FROM ENTERING THE CHAMBER! IF I SEE YOU CHANGE INTO ECLIPSO...
...I'LL SIMPLY FLOOD THE CHAMBER WITH A HIGH PHOTON-LIGHT-BURST AND CHANGE YOU BACK TO YOURSELF!
UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES MUST YOU UNLOCK THE HATCH IF ECLIPSO'S INSIDE! SO LONG FOR NOW, PROFESSOR!
AS THE HATCH CLOSES BEHIND BRUCE, THE TENSE WATCH BEGINS...
THIRTY MORE SECONDS! WILL I CHANGE...?
IT'S GOT TO WORK! GOOD LUCK, SON!
SOMETHING'S HAPPENING OUT THERE--BUT I'D BETTER KEEP HIDDEN!
ABOVE THE INKY BLANKET OF THE SEA--FAR IN SPACE--ONE OF THE UNIVERSE'S MOMENTOUS EVENTS BEGINS--A SOLAR ECLIPSE...
3

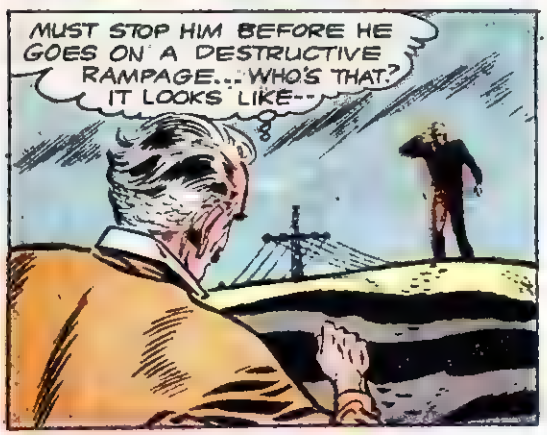
SO FAR, SO GOOD! MAYBE WE'VE FOUND THE SOLUTION... THE WAY TO KEEP ECLIPSO FROM TAKING OVER BRUCE'S BODY AND BRAIN!
OH, NO--! HE'S BEGINNING TO CHANGE!
THIS TIME, I'LL MAKE SURE BRUCE GORDON NEVER RETURNS TO THIS WORLD! HA, HA!
WE... WE FAILED! BUT I CAN FLOOD THE CHAMBER WITH LIGHT TO REVERT BRUCE TO HIMSELF!
THINKS HE CAN FIX ME, DOES HE? THIS'LL STOP THE PROFESSOR'S PLAN!
SMASH
4.

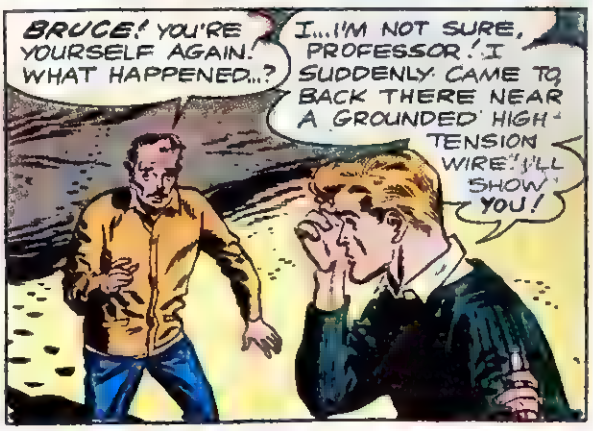
ECLIPSO! HE SMASHED THE 'SCOPE THAT ALSO WAS TO EMIT THE LIGHT BURST! I...I DIDN'T FORESEE THIS! I CAN'T DEVISE A NEW LIGHT PROJECTOR DOWN HERE!
SURE THAT ECLIPSO IS HELPLESSLY LOCKED INSIDE THE ESCAPE-PROOF CHAMBER, THE PROFESSOR SURFACES...
MY COSTUME IS HIDDEN WITHIN THE ATOMIC PILE BACK IN GORDON'S LAB... BUT NOT MY BLACK DIAMOND!
UNSCREWING THE FOUNTAIN PEN AND ITS MATCHING PENCIL...
IT'S RIGHT HERE -- INSIDE GORDON'S OWN PEN, GROUND INTO POWDER WHERE I PLACED IT DURING MY LAST "VISIT"!
POURED INTO THE PENCIL IN WHICH IS A CHEMICAL CATALYST... MY RAVEN JEWEL IS RECONSTITUTED...READY TO SERVE ME!
ZAAZT!
SPLAT
BLACK LIGHT FOCUSED THROUGH THE DIAMOND FROM MY ECLIPSED EYE COULDN'T HELP ME HERE... BUT USING IT WITH MY OTHER EYE TO PRODUCE ULTRA-ENERGY BOLTS WILL FREE ME!
WHEN THE "CRAB" EMERGES FROM THE SEA...
ECLIPSO!
SURPRISED TO SEE ME, PROFESSOR?

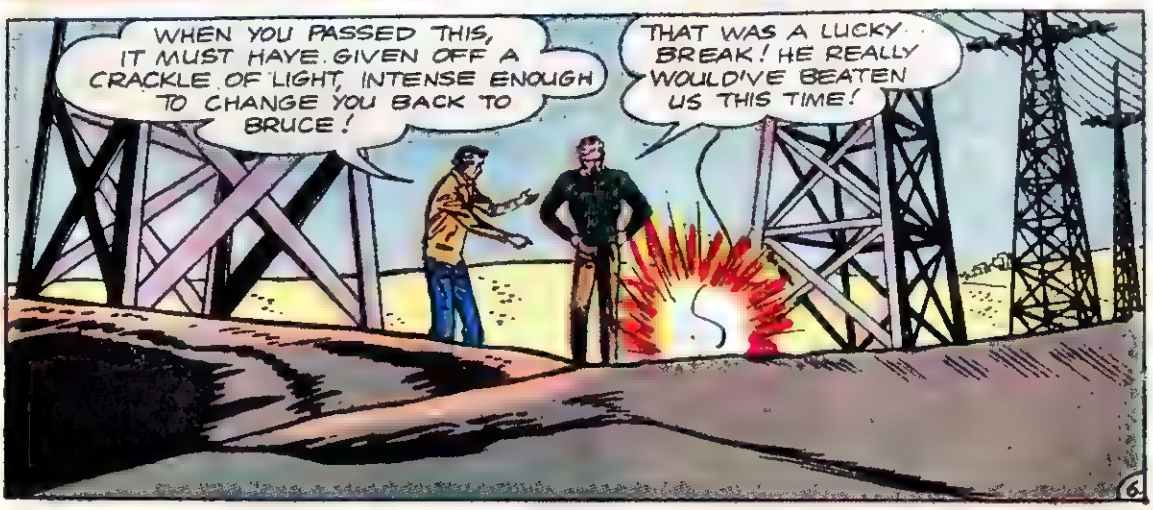

ONCE MORE, I'VE UNLEASHED MYSELF ON A HELPLESS WORLD--AND THIS TIME NOTHING WILL EVER CHANGE ME BACK INTO BRUCE GORDON!

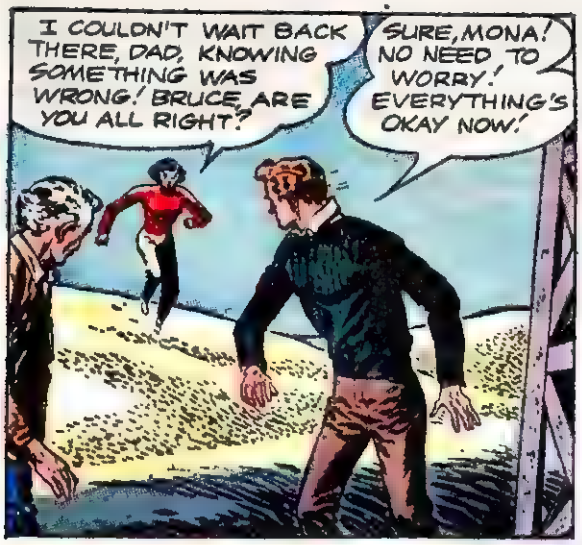

INSIDE THE BATHYSPHERE, THERE IS ONLY SILENCE... UNTIL...
MONA--?
HOW DID YOU--?
I STOWED AWAY, DAD! WHERE'S BRUCE?


THERE...THERE WAS AN ACCIDENT! BRUCE WENT FOR HELP! STAY HERE, MONA! I'M GOING AFTER HIM!
BUT, DAD -- I DON'T UNDERSTAND!

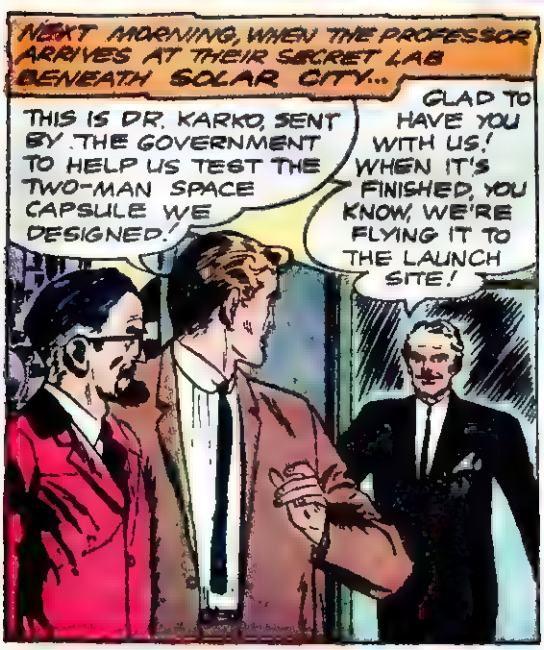

MUST STOP HIM BEFORE HE GOES ON A DESTRUCTIVE RAMPAGE... WHO'S THAT? IT LOOKS LIKE--

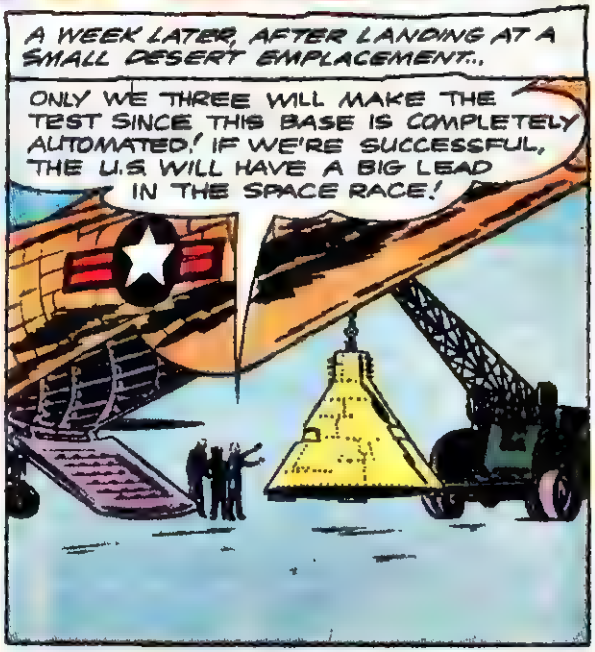

BRUCE! YOU'RE YOURSELF AGAIN! WHAT HAPPENED...?
I...I'M NOT SURE, PROFESSOR! I SUDDENLY CAME TO BACK THERE NEAR A GROUNDED HIGH-TENSION WIRE! I'LL SHOW YOU!

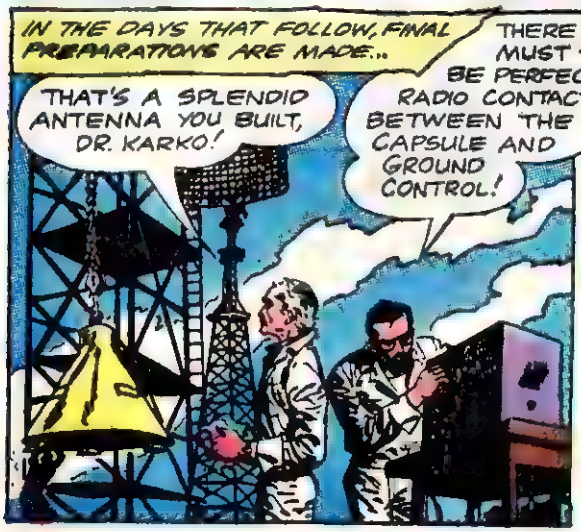

WHEN YOU PASSED THIS, IT MUST HAVE GIVEN OFF A CRACKLE OF LIGHT, INTENSE ENOUGH TO CHANGE YOU BACK TO BRUCE!
THAT WAS A LUCKY BREAK! HE REALLY WOULD'VE BEATEN US THIS TIME!

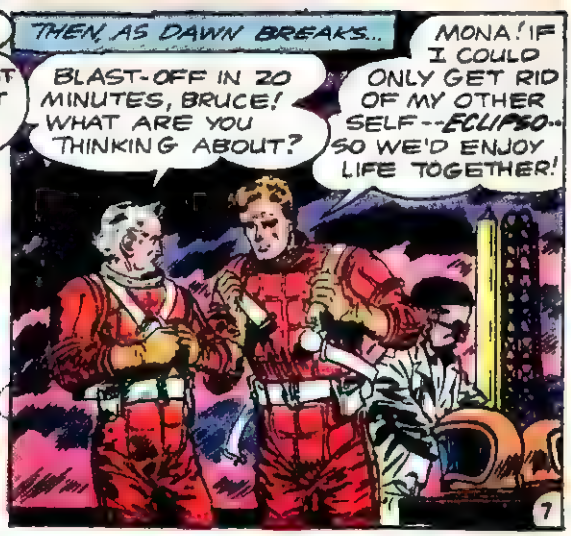

I COULDN'T WAIT BACK THERE, DAD, KNOWING SOMETHING WAS WRONG! BRUCE, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
SURE, MONA! NO NEED TO WORRY! EVERYTHING'S OKAY NOW!

DARLING... WHAT'S COME OVER YOU LATELY? WHAT'S COME BETWEEN US? DOES IT HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THAT EVIL ECLIPSO?
ECLIPSO? OF COURSE NOT! OUR MARRIAGE WILL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL I FINISH SOME OF MY PROJECTS! THAT'S ALL!


NEXT MORNING, WHEN THE PROFESSOR ARRIVES AT THEIR SECRET LAB BENEATH SOLAR CITY...
THIS IS DR. KARKO, SENT BY THE GOVERNMENT TO HELP US TEST THE TWO-MAN SPACE CAPSULE WE DESIGNED!
GLAD TO HAVE YOU WITH US! WHEN IT'S FINISHED, YOU KNOW, WE'RE FLYING IT TO THE LAUNCH SITE!


A WEEK LATER, AFTER LANDING AT A SMALL DESERT EMPLACEMENT...
ONLY WE THREE WILL MAKE THE TEST SINCE THIS BASE IS COMPLETELY AUTOMATED! IF WE'RE SUCCESSFUL, THE U.S. WILL HAVE A BIG LEAD IN THE SPACE RACE!


IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOW, FINAL PREPARATIONS ARE MADE...
THAT'S A SPLENDID ANTENNA YOU BUILT, DR. KARKO!
THERE MUST BE PERFECT RADIO CONTACT BETWEEN THE CAPSULE AND GROUND CONTROL!


THEN, AS DAWN BREAKS...
BLAST-OFF IN 20 MINUTES, BRUCE! WHAT ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT?
MONA! IF I COULD ONLY GET RID OF MY OTHER SELF--ECLIPSO-- SO WE'D ENJOY LIFE TOGETHER!

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

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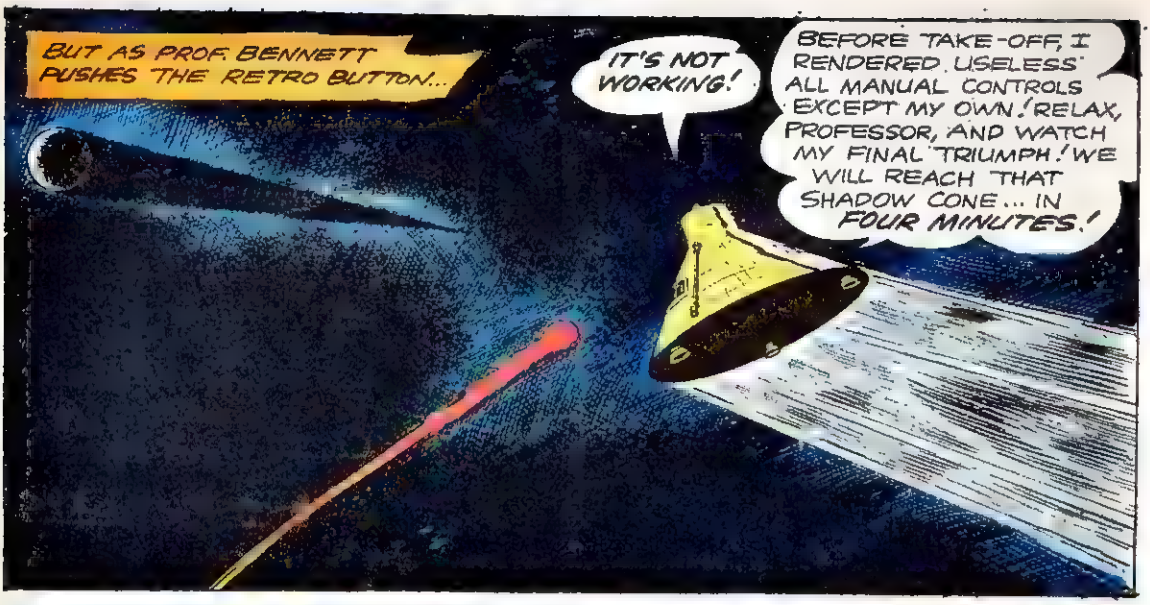
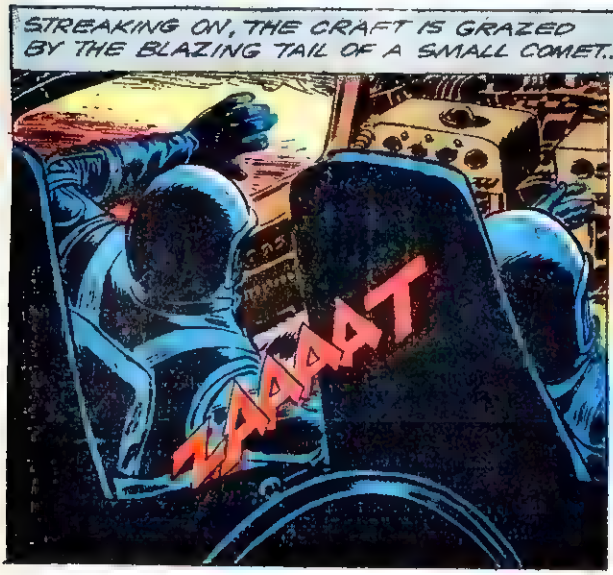
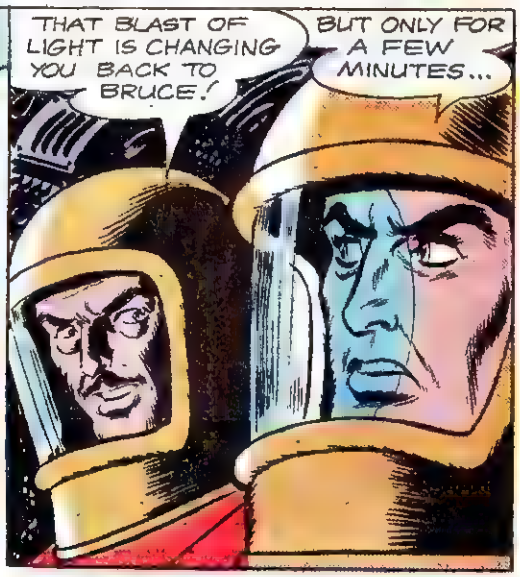
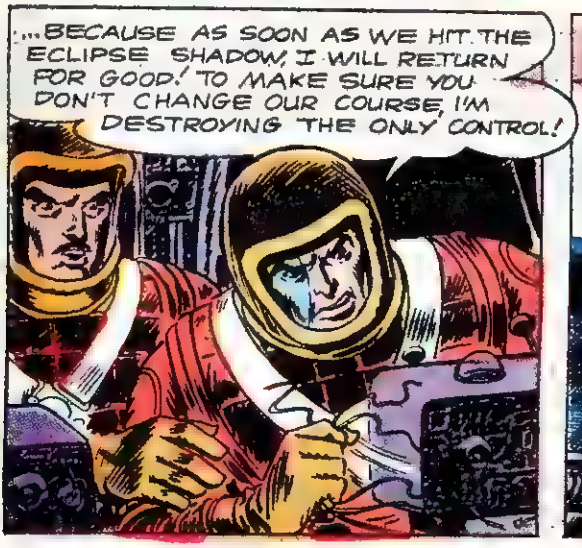
YOU...YOU WERE DISGUISED AS BRUCE ALL ALONG--SINCE THAT DAY ON THE BEACH!
YES--I NEVER DID CHANGE BACK! I FOOLED YOU WITH THAT HIGH TENSION WIRE AND SOME SPECIAL MAKE-UP--
--TO MAKE SURE I'D BE ALONG ON THIS FLIGHT AND ACHIEVE MY GREATEST TRIUMPH... THE END OF BRUCE GORDON!
WH-WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
SINCE WE ARE BEYOND THE RADIATION BELT, ONCE WE PASS THROUGH THAT SHADOW CONE, I'LL BECOME ECLIPSO PERMANENTLY! AND NO LIGHT, NO MATTER HOW POWERFUL, WILL EVER BRING BRUCE GORDON BACK!
I'LL STOP YOU! I'LL RADIO DR. KARKO TO FIRE THE RETRO ROCKETS AND SEND US BACK TO EARTH! CAPSULE TO CONTROL! CAPSULE TO--
SAVE YOUR BREATH, PROFESSOR! I'VE HEARD EVERYTHING--AND I TAKE ORDERS ONLY FROM MY COLLEAGUE, ECLIPSO!
KARKO! HE'S YOUR ALLY?
HE'S A FOREIGN SPY I MET WHILE DISGUISED AS BRUCE! IN RETURN FOR HELPING ME TO DESTROY BRUCE, HE GAINS YOUR COUNTRY'S SECRETS!
I'LL STOP YOU YET! I'LL FIRE THE RETROS MANUALLY!


BUT AS PROF. BENNETT PUSHES THE RETRO BUTTON...
IT'S NOT WORKING!
BEFORE TAKE-OFF, I RENDERED USELESS ALL MANUAL CONTROLS EXCEPT MY OWN! RELAX, PROFESSOR, AND WATCH MY FINAL TRIUMPH! WE WILL REACH THAT SHADOW CONE... IN FOUR MINUTES!

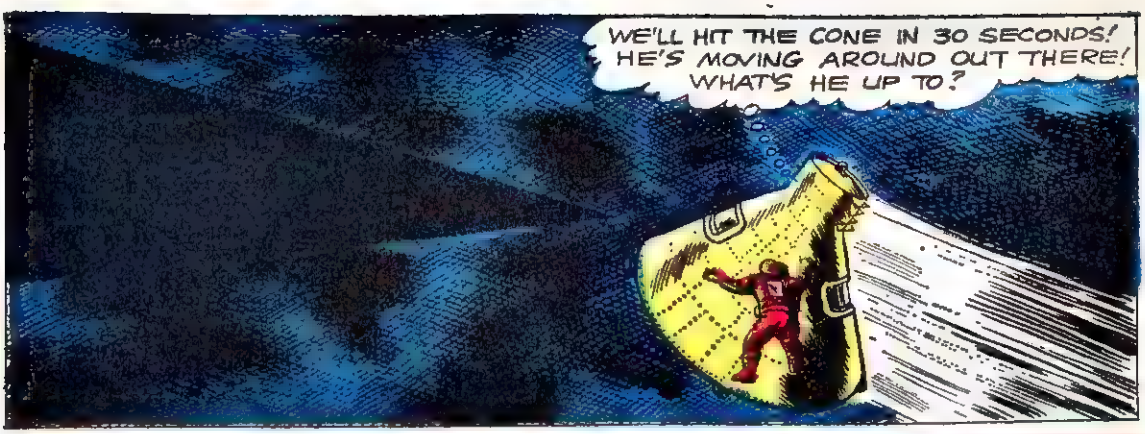

STREAKING ON, THE CRAFT IS GRAZED BY THE BLAZING TAIL OF A SMALL COMET...
ZAAAAT

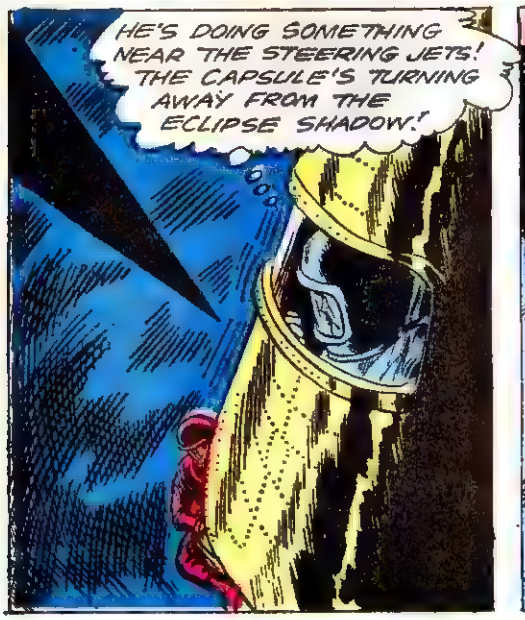

THAT BLAST OF LIGHT IS CHANGING YOU BACK TO BRUCE!
BUT ONLY FOR A FEW MINUTES...

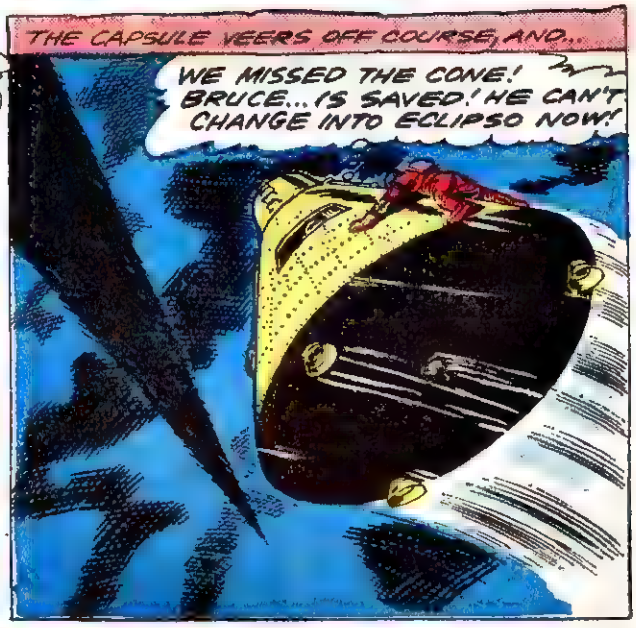

...BECAUSE AS SOON AS WE HIT THE ECLIPSE SHADOW, I WILL RETURN FOR GOOD! TO MAKE SURE YOU DON'T CHANGE OUR COURSE, I'M DESTROYING THE ONLY CONTROL!

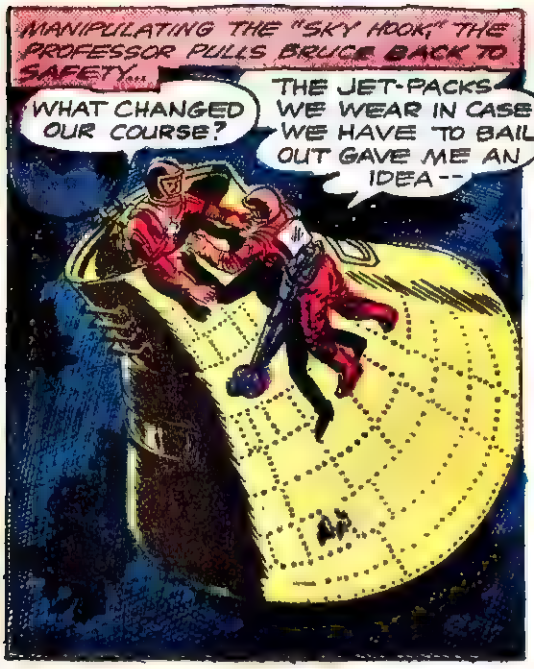
NOW THE CAPSULE RACES UNALTERABLY TOWARDS THE DARK CONE...
...AND THAT'S HOW YOU GOT HERE, BRUCE! ECLIPSO'S INFERNAL SCHEME TO DESTROY YOU WILL SUCCEED... IN JUST THREE MINUTES!
HE...HE'S MORE CUNNING THAN I EVER DREAMED!

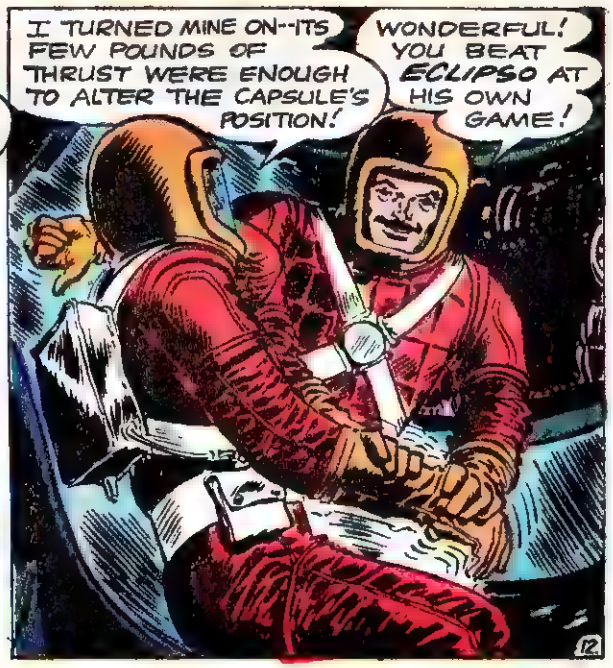
QUICKLY, BRUCE UNSTRAPS HIMSELF, AND OPENS THE HATCH...
THE ONLY WAY TO STOP ECLIPSO FROM RETURNING TO EARTH WITH THE CAPSULE IS TO EJECT MYSELF BEFORE WE HIT THAT SHADOW CONE AND HE POSSESSES ME PERMANENTLY!
NO! IF YOU DO THAT, YOU'LL FLOAT FOREVER IN SPACE!
I...I'VE GOT TO, PROFESSOR! BRUCE GORDON HAS ONLY TWO MINUTES TO LIVE ANYWAY! BUT IT'LL BE ECLIPSO WHO'LL BE DOOMED TO DRIFT ETERNALLY!
GOODBYE, SIR! IF YOU GET BACK OKAY...TELL MONA I ALWAYS LOVED HER...TELL HER WHY I COULD NEVER MARRY HER!
GOOD...GOODBYE, SON! I'LL NEVER FORGET YOU!
OUT INTO SPACE CLIMBS BRUCE GORDON--IN THE ALMOST AIRLESS VOID, HIS BODY MAINTAINING THE SAME SPEED AS THE STREAKING CAPSULE...
IN ANOTHER MINUTE, WE'LL PASS THROUGH THAT CONE.. AND BRUCE WILL CHANGE... HOPELESSLY MAROONED IN SPACE...SACRIFICING HIMSELF TO SPARE HUMANITY!


WE'LL HIT THE CONE IN 30 SECONDS! HE'S MOVING AROUND OUT THERE! WHAT'S HE UP TO?

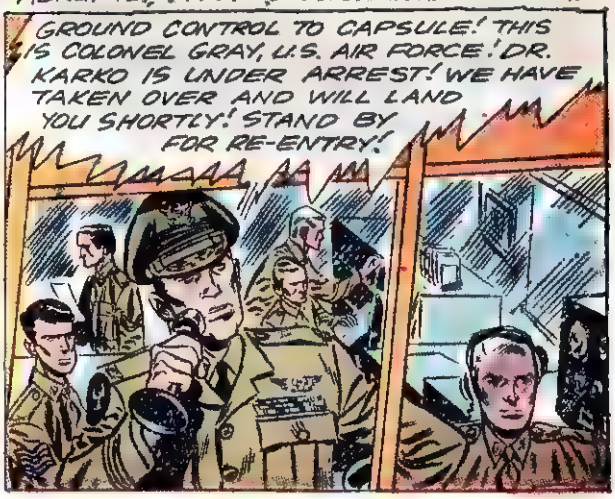

HE'S DOING SOMETHING NEAR THE STEERING JETS! THE CAPSULE'S TURNING AWAY FROM THE ECLIPSE SHADOW!

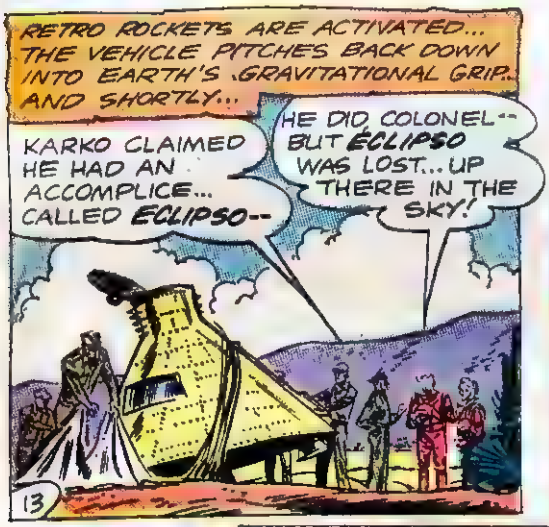

THE CAPSULE VEERS OFF COURSE, AND...
WE MISSED THE CONE! BRUCE... IS SAVED! HE CAN'T CHANGE INTO ECLIPSO NOW!

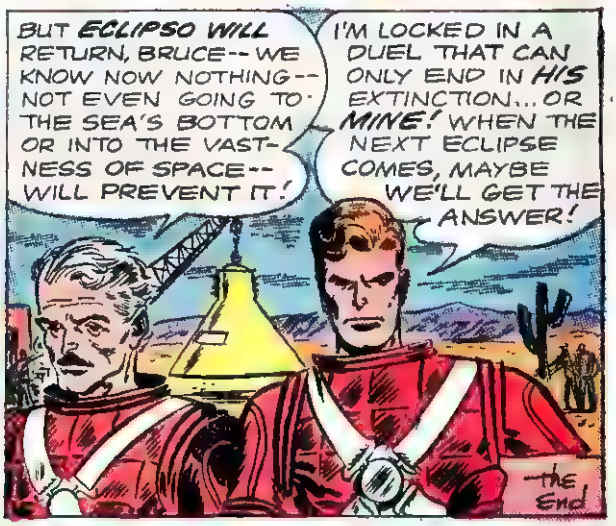

MANIPULATING THE "SKY HOOK," THE PROFESSOR PULLS BRUCE BACK TO SAFETY...
WHAT CHANGED OUR COURSE?
THE JET-PACKS WE WEAR IN CASE WE HAVE TO BAIL OUT GAVE ME AN IDEA--


I TURNED MINE ON--ITS FEW POUNDS OF THRUST WERE ENOUGH TO ALTER THE CAPSULE'S POSITION!
WONDERFUL! YOU BEAT ECLIPSO AT HIS OWN GAME!
12

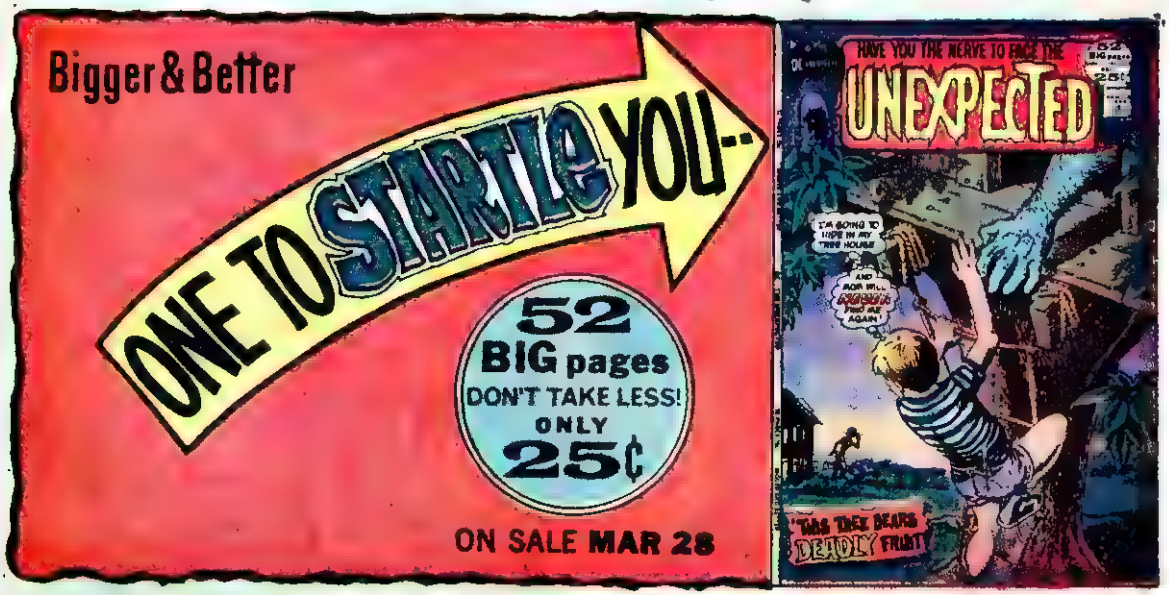
ABRUPTLY, A RADIO VOICE INTERRUPTS...







NEXT ISSUE ON SALE ON OR ABOUT APR. 27



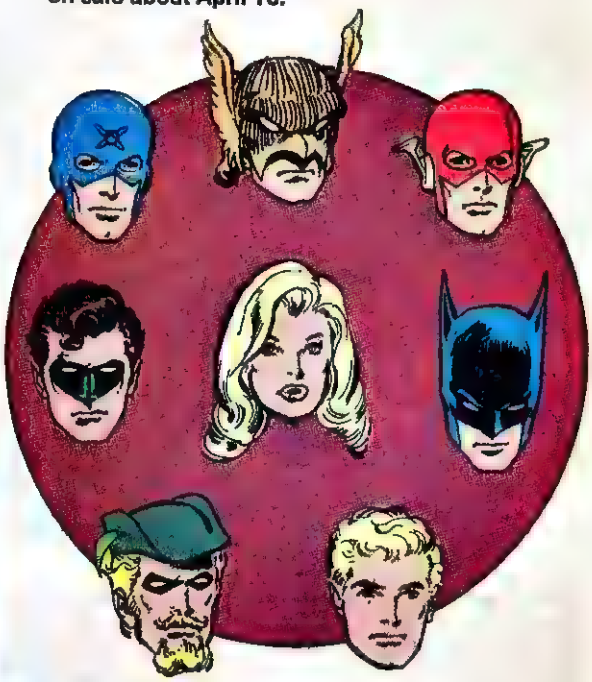
DIRECT CURRENTS

The Unknown Soldier has possibly his most important assignment of World War II—to stop an assassin whose mission is to "Kill the General!" **General Eisenhower,** that is! (Okay—so you know **Ike** wasn't killed—but you don't know **how The Unknown Soldier** protected him, do you?) Dan Spiegel illoed this one. And editor Joe Kubert has dug up a Carmine Infantino art job—"Sgt. Storm-Cloud," about an Indian. There's also a **Balloon Buster** tale, "The Ace Who Died Twice!" **July STAR-SPANGLED WAR STORIES (#163).** On sale **April 11!**

You don't have to wait till midnight to read **THE WITCHING HOUR**—it's good for goose-bumps any time! The **July** issue **(#21)** features the following fear-fables: "The Haunted Houseboat"; "The Mournful Bells of Santa Morte";"Laugh Clown, Die Clown!"; "Designs for Disaster"; and "Prisoners of Sorcerers' City!" Our three weird sisters have cooked up a potpourri of shockers that would even make Macbeth shudder! It's on sale **April 11!**

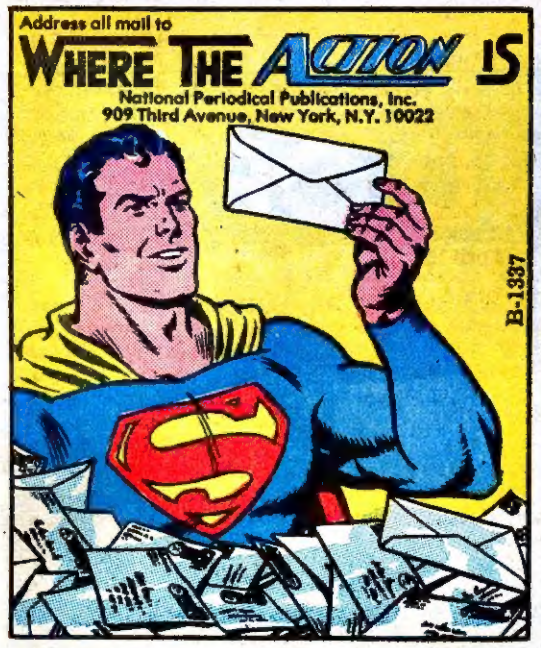
Cover-featured on the **July FROM BEYOND THE UNKNOWN (#17)** is "The Impossible World Named Earth"—a real science-fiction stunner! And for you sci-fi fiends there are plenty of other top tales of space and time: "Mystery of the 12 O'Clock Man"; "The Super-Cook of Space"; "The Magic Typewriter"; and "Rocketeer for Hire!" Who but DC would give you such a superb collection of illustrated science-adventures—all in one mag? It's on sale **April 11.**

You've heard of **Johnny Appleseed,** the man who wandered over the West, sowing seeds to grow the apple orchards of today! Well, the **JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA** meets a new-type **Johnny Appleseed** —from space—in the **June** issue **(#99).** And this one outdoes his namesake! How? The answer even shakes the **World's Greatest Super-Heroes!** There's also a tale of the early **Sandman** (when he still wore his first outfit); plus **The Atom** (Golden Age version) in his **second** costume! This one goes on sale about **April 13.**



More shudders come your way when you enter **THE SINISTER HOUSE** for **July (#5).** It's a mystery called "Murder at Castle Dunbar"—set in modern Scotland. Lynn Marron and Mike Fleischer did the story, while Mike Sekowsky and Dick Giordano contributed the artwork. Remember, it's a **full-length novel—all new!** And it's filled with chills and packed with peril! You can get it when it hits the stands—and that's **April 13!**

Meet the boy who will play an important new part in the life of **SUPERMAN!** He debuts in the **June** issue of the **Man of Steel's** magazine **(#253)**—in a tale which features the return of an old enemy—and a brief appearance by an old friend! The story, authored by Denny O'Neil, is called "The Kid Who Saved Superman!" There's also a Golden Age classic—from **Superman** #13! That should tell you why you shouldn't miss this one—and it's on sale **April 13!**



Dear Editor:

"The Hero Superman Doomed to Die" was a well-constructed, complex story. Its major points of merit were: Superman's new techniques of problem solving, his absentmindedness, the attitude of the LOYAL public, the inclusion of P. White, L. Lane, J. Olsen, M. Edge; Col. Carter's motivation to experiment with his evolution and the result of the experiment. The only weak point in the story was the semi-professional approach to the special newscast on page 9.

Concerning "The Shocking Secret of Super-X," I found it INCREDIBLE that Miss Lang would remain where she was after finding Superman's outfit in Clark Kent's textbook.

Say, how about giving us more information about Clark's roommate—like a name, perhaps, a personality, even?

William G. Laks, Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

That could probably make a good story of Clark's college career. We'll see what our writers can do with it.—Ed.

Dear Editor:

I just read #408, and would like to comment on it. As much as I would like to spend time praising its good points, I'm going to use the space for criticism.

The cover . . . fantastic! "The Hero Superman Doomed to Die" was great! Fabulous plot (although a little unrealistic)! Mr. Bates is all right. And the Swan & Anderson art was good as it always is. "The Secret of Super-X" was also very good, although too short. You think, "Hey, if the cover and both stories were fantastic, then what's left?" Aha! You're forgetting a little matter of approximately 13 pages out of 38 that were not put to a good use.

These last 13 pages were wasted on a recent Atom reprint. I forget exactly, but it was published in the early to mid 60's.

The reply you sent me a few days ago mentioned you were going to start a new Metamorpho series in *ACTION*, with *NEW* stories. When I saw this, I really flipped, because I hoped this was the beginning of a series like I suggested to you in one of my letters—to bring back discontinued heroes in all-new adventures as second features in ACTION. Are you going to do other heroes, too?

Frank Verzyl, Lindenhurst, N.Y.

That hasn't been decided yet—but the new Metamorpho series begins in the next issue! Let's see how it turns out first, shall we? Joe Orlando has taken a similar course in ADVENTURE, with Zatanna, Vigilante and Black Canary.

As for those Atom tales, we remind you that a good many of our readers weren't around when the stories were first printed. "The Atom's Phantom Double" was from THE ATOM #9, published in 1963. Think of the myriad readers, 12 and under, who never saw it before! Not that we won't do older stories, too.—Ed.

Dear Editor:

Although Super-X's secret was far from shocking, it did provide Cary with the premise for another good story. It was painfully obvious, however, why the "amnesia germs" were introduced after seeing Lana's discovery of the super-playsuit. But if every mag had only one such minor fault, we fans would really be on Cloud 9. As it is, I'm up to number 8.

You seem to have an Atom-fetish, since this is the fourth ish in five months to feature him. Still, the reprint was quite a good way to end up an exciting mag. Onward and upward and continued success.

Gerard Triano, Elmont, N.Y.

"Onward and upward"? The way we always said it was, "Up—up—and away!"— Ed.

Dear Editor:

Help! Help! I'm drowning—in relevancy. Fortunately, we have writers like Cary Bates, who provide welcome escapes from relevancy. Cary likes to delve into the kind of story we used to get in the early 60's. "The Hero Superman Doomed to Die" was still scripted beautifully, even though it bore no special meaning. Nice, original idea and the artwork was as great as ever. It was nice seeing Perry White again in the pages of ACTION, too.

"The Shocking Secret of Super-X" was not such an original idea (Superman adopting a new identity), but it had a great, unexpected kind of new twist. The Atom reprint was about the best choice of Atom stories you have made yet.

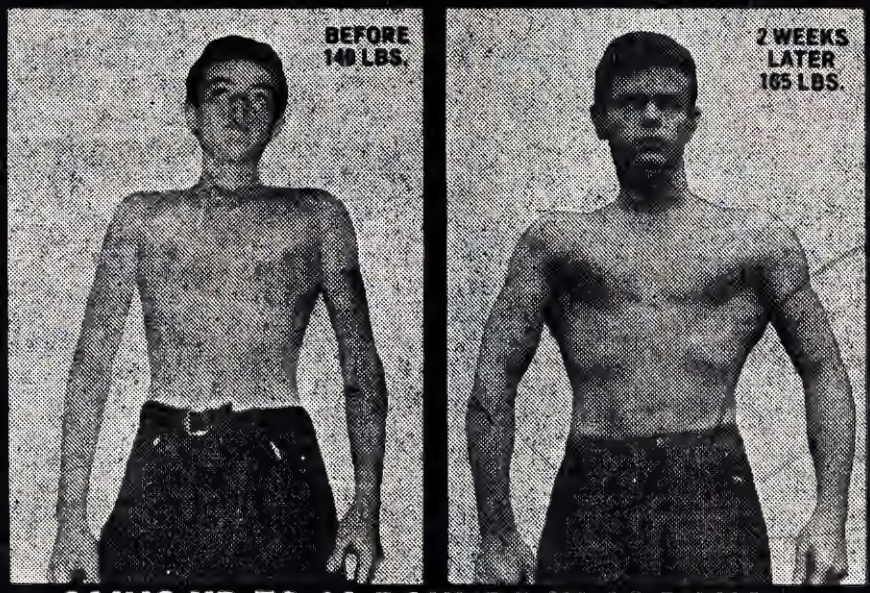
If you must have relevancy, at least keep the kind of plot line that Cary seems to enjoy creating. Let Clark have all kinds of personal problems in both identities, but still fight all his old super-villains.

Steve Billnitzer, Perrysburg, Ohio

If it's the old super-villains you want, we've got one for you in the next issue—Brainiac! —Ed.

Another JOE WEIDER breakthrough:

THE END OF THE SKINNY BODY.



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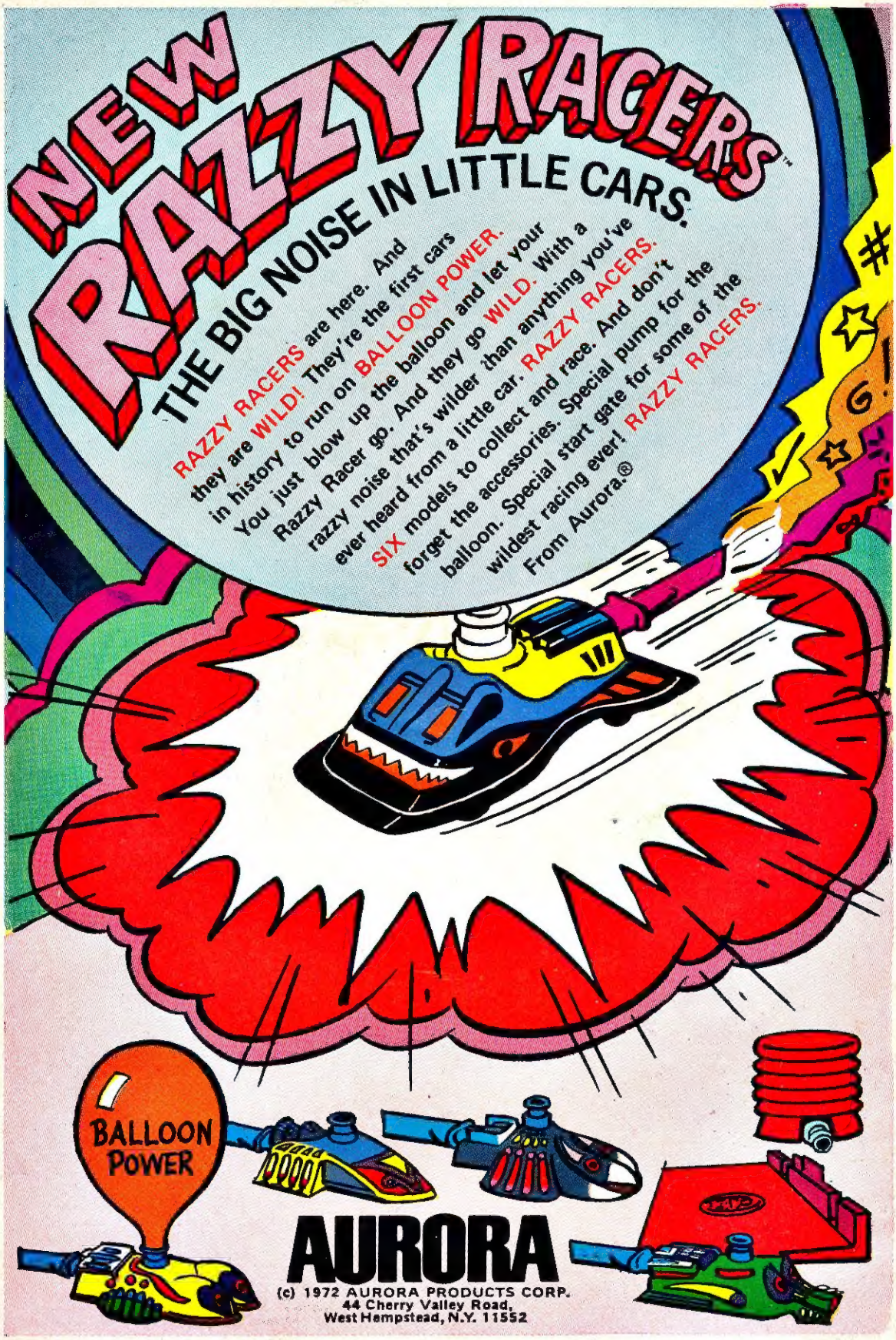

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